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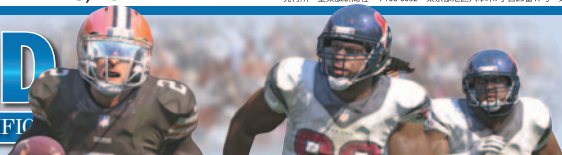
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Kenny Football?
Texas A&M QB
has own nickname

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CHARLES DHARAPAK/AP

President Barack Obama, fourth from left, meets with leaders at a two-day NATO summit in Newport, Wales on Thursday. Other leaders, from left, are French President Francois Hollande, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, Secretary of State John Kerry, British Prime Minister David Cameron, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi.

Obama, Cameron urge NATO to confront Islamic State

By JULIE PACE
The Associated Press

NEWPORT, Wales — NATO leaders grappled Thursday with whether the alliance has a role in containing a mounting militant threat in the Middle East as heads of state converged in Wales for a high-stakes summit also focused on the crisis in Ukraine and next steps in Afghanistan.

President Barack Obama and British Prime Minister David Cameron declared that their nations would "not be cowed" by extremists from the Islamic State group who have claimed responsibility for killing two American journalists. They also challenged NATO to not turn inward in the face of the threat.

"Those who want to adopt an isolationist approach misunderstand the nature of secu-

rity in the 21st century," Obama and Cameron wrote in a joint editorial in the Times of London. "Developments in other parts of the world, particularly in Iraq and Syria, threaten our security at home."

Obama, Cameron and dozens of other NATO leaders met on a golf resort in Wales for the two-day summit. Leaders here also planned to commit to a more robust rapid-response force on its eastern flank, which would aim to serve as a deterrent to Russian aggression.

Yet much of the action was to take place on the sidelines of the summit, where the American and British leaders were expected to drum up support for an international response to confronting the Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria.

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"This must be the hottest place in the world. It's like hell."

—Ivo Steenhuisen,
Dutch tourist who was staying at
the Kamppgrounds of America site in
Las Vegas, on the
outside temperature

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TOP CLICKS ON STRIPES.COM

The most popular stories
on our website:

1. 5 theories why Islamic State is goading US
2. Air Force to reprimand Krusinski rather than pursue court-martial
3. More than 100 Americans fighting with Islamic State
4. Female fighters of the PKK may be the Islamic State's worst nightmare
5. Should Fiji troops be in Syria as UN peacekeepers?

COMING SOON



Shifting gears

Ford's manufacturing
milestone

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WAR/MILITARY

2 suicide truck bombs, gunbattle in Ghazni

At least 12 killed in Taliban attack on compound

By AMIR SHAH
AND JASON STRAZIUSO
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Taliban struck a government compound in eastern Afghanistan on Thursday in a dawn attack that included two suicide truck bombings and left at least 12 people dead, including eight off-duty policemen asleep in their quarters nearby.

The assault followed a stark message from the Taliban to world leaders gathered at a NATO summit in Wales, which will also discuss the drawdown of the alliance's mission in Afghanistan.

The exit of all foreign combat troops at the end of the year is proof that "no nation is able to subdue a free nation, especially a nation proud and free such as Afghanistan," the Taliban note said. Thursday's attack started at sunrise, with the Taliban setting off two massive suicide truck bombs outside the government compound in the provincial capital of Ghazni, followed by an assault by nearly a dozen gunmen.

The assault triggered a gunbattle with policemen and security forces at the compound and officials said all 13 assailants were subsequently killed, including the two suicide bombers. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack in a text message sent to media.

The bombs blew out many windows across the city, and left about 200 people injured, mostly from flying glass, said Ghazni Gov. Musa Khan Akbarzada. He said one truck carved a 10-meter hole into the ground.



RAHMATULLAH NIKZAD/AP

Afghan security forces walk at the site of a Thursday suicide attack in Ghazni, Afghanistan.

Sadly, the bombings also destroyed Ghazni's city library and two museums, the governor said.

The attack comes as Afghanistan is embroiled in a political crisis with the country's April presidential election still without a clear winner. Two candidates vying to succeed President Hamid Karzai pulled their observers out of a ballot audit meant to determine the winner of a June runoff. The audit's final results are expected sometime next week.

Even though NATO forces are to leave Afghanistan, a small number of U.S. and international troops may stay on after 2014 to advise and assist the Afghans. But that is likely contingent on Afghanistan signing a security arrangement with the United States, something Karzai has so far refused to do. And despite the exit of most foreign forces, violence between the Taliban and the Afghan government is expected to continue.

Both presidential candidates — Abdullah Abdullah, a former foreign minister, and former Finance Minister Ashraf Ghani — have pledged to sign the security deal.

Had the vote been resolved, it was expected that Karzai's successor would have attended the summit in Wales.

The Taliban needed the alliance ahead of the summit.

"Their 13-year-old occupation is now seen as a historical shame," said their statement, released late

Coalition member killed in southeastern Afghanistan

Stars and Stripes

A member of the NATO-led military coalition in Afghanistan was killed Thursday in an enemy attack in southeastern Afghanistan.

A statement from the International Security Assistance Force did not identify the individual or provide details of the attack. Coalition members typically provide the names of their casualties.

Casualty rates for ISAF servicemembers have fallen in

recent years as Afghan security forces assume more of the fighting against insurgents. ISAF servicemembers still work closely with Afghan forces and patrol their own bases.

Roughly 44,000 international troops remain in Afghanistan — including nearly 30,000 Americans — as the coalition prepares to end its combat mission this year. NATO plans to call for a residual training-and-advising force to remain after 2014, pending agreements with the government.

part of the compound, according to Asadullah Ensafi, the deputy police chief.

One of the truck bombs killed eight off-duty police officers who were asleep in their housing unit near the site, said Khan Pacha Shirzad, a police commander. Three security forces and one civilian were also killed, said Zia Gul Esfandi, the director of the public health department.

The Taliban regularly stage brazen attacks against Afghan forces and government institutions.

Wednesday. "It was planned that Afghanistan's next leader would participate in the Wales Summit. Now their plans have come to naught."

The election impasse has also hurt Afghanistan's economy, as customers worrying about the outbreak of civil war hold onto their money and investors put the brakes on new projects as they wait to see how the crisis unfolds.

The target of the Ghazni attack was apparently the local office of domestic intelligence, which is

To our readers

Delivery of Stars and Stripes to South Korea might be late on Monday and Tuesday because of the Korean Chuseok Holiday.

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MILITARY

Pentagon eases rules on discharge upgrades

New directive aims to help claims process for Vietnam veterans with undiagnosed PTSD

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel signed a directive Wednesday to make it easier for veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder claims to get their unfavorable discharges upgraded.

Many Vietnam veterans claiming to have service-related PTSD have been petitioning the applicable "board for correction" for an upgrade to their discharge sta-

tus. During the Vietnam War era, the U.S. military did not recognize PTSD as a legitimate medical diagnosis.

A less-than-honorable discharge can have many negative effects on a former servicemember, including a loss of benefits.

"Liberal consideration" will now be given in cases where there is any evidence to indicate that PTSD might have contributed to misconduct that led to a less than honorable discharge, Hagel said

in the memorandum. Hagel noted that records for troops who served before PTSD was recognized often lack important information, which makes it "extremely difficult" to document PTSD or establish a connection between PTSD and misconduct.

The new policy guidance will make it easier for veterans to make their case that undiagnosed PTSD negatively influenced their behavior while they were in the service. It also clarifies how boards should

judge applications.

Hagel said PTSD and related conditions will be considered potentially mitigating factors if they can simply be "reasonably determined" to have existed when the person was discharged for misconduct.

The existence of PTSD or PTSD-related symptoms at the time of discharge will not necessarily result in an upgrade. The Pentagon chief directed the boards to "exercise caution" when it comes to

cases where a discharge stemmed from "serious" or "premeditated" misconduct.

"Potentially mitigating evidence of the existence of undiagnosed combat-related PTSD ... will be carefully weighed against the severity of the misconduct," Hagel said. Moreover, the new guidance does not apply to people who had pre-existing PTSD that was not aggravated by military service.

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DOD shipping contractor to offer vehicle tracking info

By ADAM L. MATHIS
Stars and Stripes

The company that has come under fire for long delays in shipping vehicles for Defense Department employees says it is working on an update to its website that will allow customers to track their vehicles.

Many customers making permanent change-of-station moves have complained that International Auto Logistics, which took over the government contract to ship DOD employees' vehicles in May, has failed to provide timely information on the status of vehicles in transit. Customers have said that they are facing long delays in receiving their vehicles at their new duty station.

Ken Quinn, chief financial officer and senior vice president of International, said the company is conducting a full inventory that will be posted to the company's website so customers can track their vehicles.

Quinn said the company started using a new, electronic system in mid-July to track vehicles. Information was entered manually into the previous system, he said.

This system has shown a "dramatic improvement" and most vehicles have now been entered, he said.

Some vehicles in transit when the electronic system came online could not be entered, he said, but a full inventory is under way and should be completed by next week, he said.

"We are not going to rest until every member is reunited with their vehicle," Quinn said.

Since International took over the contract, customers have complained of lengthy delays. Last month, six current and former DOD employees filed a class-action lawsuit claiming failure to deliver vehicles or provide accurate information on their whereabouts.

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WILFREDO LEE/AP

Seeing you seeing me

Rick Stuart, advanced technology manager for U.S. Southern Command, holds up an "InstantEye" aerial drone for Air Force Tech. Sgt. Raymond Hoy to photograph while the drone's view is projected on a screen during a demonstration at SOUTHCOM headquarters in Doral, Fla., on Wednesday. SOUTHCOM is showing off new equipment intended to improve communications on disaster relief and humanitarian missions.

Senator urges quick action on review of care

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., urged the Pentagon this week to quickly complete its review of military hospitals following a recent investigation by The New York Times that found dangerous lapses in care and accountability at the facilities.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel ordered the review in May and a series of articles by the newspaper has since added urgency.

The paper found the hospitals underperform and that deaths or injuries caused by apparent medical mistakes were often never investigated by the military as required.

Durbin, who chairs the Senate appropriations defense subcommittee, wrote to Hagel this week asking that the reported problems be addressed in the ongoing Department of Defense review and that the defense secretary brief the committee as soon as possible. The review is slated to be completed this fall, according to Durbin's office.

"In light of deeply concerning reports of subpar care and mismanagement within the

Military Health System, I ask that all cases of permanent harm or death ... so called 'sentinel events' — are thoroughly and impartially investigated," Durbin wrote to Hagel. "The department's ongoing review of the health care system should look carefully at the quality of care, in addition to ensuring that patient care is the system's primary mission."

The military health care system is one of the Pentagon's biggest and fastest growing expenses. The Times reported that the department originally began the review to look at cutting ballooning costs in a system of hospitals that cares for about 1.6 million active-duty troops and their dependents at bases in the United States and around the world.

After obtaining leaked information from the review, the Times reported that the hospitals

make up a "system in which scrutiny is sporadic and avoidable errors are chronic."

Meanwhile, military treatment in many base hospitals, especially small facilities with underutilized staff, falls below the standards of care for civilian hospitals, the Times investigation found. For example, military hospitals averaged almost double the rate of infant trauma during birth than civilian hospitals, according to the Times.

The revelations come as the separate Department of Veterans Affairs health care system is mired in a nationwide scandal for concealing long patient wait times and ignoring serious lapses in treatment at hundreds of facilities across the U.S.

In August, President Barack Obama signed off on an emergency \$16.3 billion overhaul of the VA system, which cares for about 9 million beneficiaries and is the largest health care system in the U.S.

The law includes \$10 billion in new spending to give veterans access to private health care outside the VA.

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PACIFIC



KIM YOUNG-HO/Courtesy of 8th Army Public Affairs

American and South Korean forces from Task Force Bayonet conduct a combined training exercise at Rodriguez Live Fire Complex in South Korea. U.S. and South Korean officials are planning to form a combined division that would be led by an American officer.

US, S. Korea planning to form combined division

BY ASHLEY ROWLAND
AND YOO KYONG CHANG
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The U.S. and South Korea will form a combined division early next year to improve the allies' war-fighting capabilities and create more opportunities for efficient joint training, defense officials said Thursday.

"It is also going to serve as momentum to overcome problems, including sentiment and language, between the U.S. and South Korean troops," said a spokesman for South Korea's Ministry of National Defense.

He said the combined division will be headquartered in Uijeongbu and headed by an American commander with a South Korean deputy.

U.S. Forces Korea commander Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti told reporters last November that a

combined division was a "strong possibility" and would "be a strong additive to our alliance."

Few details were released Thursday, though USFK said in a statement that "combined planning at all affected levels of command is ongoing."

"The aim of the Combined Division is to enhance the combined defense of the ROK (Republic of Korea) and readiness of the Alliance ... the initiative is designed to enhance Alliance capabilities for the defense of the ROK," the statement said.

An Defense Ministry spokesman said the size of the division is "secret." During peacetime, troops from each country will live at separate bases and train together as needed, he said.

Another defense official told South Korea's Yonhap News the division will include soldiers from the 2nd Infantry Division and a South Korean brigade-level unit.

If war broke out, the troops would jointly carry out "strategic operations" such as missions to eliminate weapons of mass destruction and civil missions against North Korea, he said.

He said the division's leadership will include an equal number of personnel from each country.

The combined division will eventually move to Pyeongtaek as the 2nd Infantry Division shifts to Camp Humphreys as part of a long-planned relocation of most Army forces on the peninsula to regional hubs. The relocation is expected to largely be completed by 2017 as the \$10.7 billion expansion of Humphreys finishes, military officials have said.

Officials from both countries emphasized that creation of the new division would not affect plans for the move.

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Fort Hood battalion deploying to S. Korea

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — A Fort Hood-based battalion will soon head to South Korea in the latest rotational deployment on the peninsula.

The 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division will arrive at Camps Hovey and Stan-

ley, north of Seoul, in October, the Army's III Corps announced this week.

"This action is part of U.S. enduring rebalancing efforts within the Asia-Pacific region, and allows for greater responsiveness to better meet theater operational requirements," the corps said in a statement.

The 800 soldiers will replace the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, which will return to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team at Fort Hood after its rotation ends.

The 1-12 CAV brought about 40 M1A2 Abrams tanks and 40 M2A3 Bradleys, which are scheduled to remain in Korea for follow-on rotations.

Seoul high school student diagnosed with meningitis

BY ASHLEY ROWLAND
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — A Seoul American High School student has been diagnosed with viral meningitis but is responding well to treatment, according to U.S. Army Garrison Yongshan.

A garrison statement said the male student was diagnosed last weekend with suspected bacterial meningitis, typically more serious than viral meningitis. However, a DNA test later showed he had viral meningitis. Symptoms include sudden fever, headache and stiff neck.

The student has undergone antibiotic treatment and is recovering, the statement said.

Lt. Col. HengMo McCall, chief of the Army Public Health Nursing Service at U.S. Army Medical Activity Korea, said Thursday that he is doing "very well" at the garrison hospital. She could not comment on when he would be released.

An investigation showed the student had few close contacts with others, aside from his immediate family and one other student. None has shown symptoms of the disease, and all have been treated with a single dose of antibiotics as a preventive measure, the garrison said.

McCall said the student had been exposed to others who were ill before the beginning of the

school year, and it was impossible to say how he contracted the virus that led to his illness.

DODEA Pacific spokesman Charly Hoff said the student was a member of the school's cross country team. McCall said health and safety precautions were not needed at the high school, and students were being encouraged to practice good personal hygiene to prevent contracting viruses.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, meningitis is caused by inflammation of the membranes covering the brain and spinal cord, and can be caused by bacteria, viruses, injury, cancer or some drugs. Viral meningitis can be serious but is rarely life-threatening in people with normal immune systems.

The Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported only three cases of meningitis in 2014, according to the garrison.

"A patient coming down with meningitis does not necessarily have to get it from someone else," the statement quoted Col. Sam Lee of the 65th Medical Brigade as saying. "It can be from the normal bacterial that is around our skin and body parts."

The community will be informed of developments in the case, garrison commander Col. Maria P. Eoff said in the statement.

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Military works on Saipan to clear unexploded ordnance

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

In the summer of 1944, U.S. Marines captured the island of Saipan, part of the Mariana Islands. Securing the island was considered crucial in the Allied plan to use the island as an air base for B-29 bomber raids on the Japanese mainland.

The U.S. completed an airstrip in the island's northern Marpi area, storing vast amounts of ordnance in the surrounding area for what military planners thought would be an inevitable invasion of the mainland.

With the detonation of atomic bombs on Japan in August 1945, that final attack wasn't necessary. But untold tons of ordnance left behind by Japanese and U.S. forces are now buried and overgrown on the island. They remain a threat, particularly during construction.

Unexploded ordnance cleanup was attempted in the 1950s and again in the 1960s in the Marpi area, but most of it remained untouched.

In 2006, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency began

awarding grants for cleanup in the Marpi area to facilitate plans for construction of 500 new homes.

Saipan's Department of Public Safety and explosive ordnance disposal technicians from the U.S. Navy and Air Force have been working together to clear some of that unexploded ordnance.

During three exercises this past year, those combined agencies collected 2,600 pounds of unexploded ordnance for disposal, according to Joint Region Marianas.

Some of the munitions are destroyed by using C-4 explosives.

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MILITARY

Understanding GI Bill in-state tuition ceiling

By TOM PHILPOTT

Perhaps the first thing veterans using GI Bill education benefits should understand about new "in-state tuition" protection that Congress approved last month is that it won't take effect for another year, until fall semester 2015.

That delay will give state-run colleges and universities, or in some cases, state legislatures — time to prepare policies or laws to lower tuition and fees for non-resident veterans to match what in-state students face.

The delay also means the population primarily to benefit from the in-state tuition mandate are those planning to leave active duty to use the GI Bill in another year, said William Hubbard, vice president of government affairs for Student Veterans of America. That's because most current GI Bill users will have established in-state residency by then, anyway.

Indeed, public colleges and universities in 27 states already offer nonresident veterans in-state tuition rates. Schools that don't by July 1 next year, however, won't be able to participate in the Post-9/11 and Montgomery GI Bill programs, forcing student vets to use education benefits elsewhere.

Currently Post-9/11 benefits cover all in-state tuition and fees at public colleges and universities. That's an estimated 3,800 veterans annually face substantial out-of-pocket costs because they elect to attend state-run colleges as nonresidents. Transferring GI Bill students, for example, can be hit hard for a year until they re-establish state residency.

But most of those impacted are newly discharged veterans who decide to attend college in states

MILITARY UPDATE

where they served last on active duty. Until they establish residency, they face out-of-state tuition and fees that their GI Bill benefits won't cover, often costing them thousands of dollars.

For-profit schools have used that gap in GI Bill coverage of nonresidents enrolled in public universities to pitch their own costly programs to veterans, touting huge amounts in tuition and fees that can be saved at their schools through use of the Yellow Ribbon feature of the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

Under Yellow Ribbon, private colleges, including for-profits, can elect to waive up to half of their tuition and fees not covered by basic Post-9/11 benefits — the current cap is \$20,235 per academic year — and the VA must match the waived amount, further enhancing the benefit.

"There's no doubt that many predatory for-profits misled vets into thinking they were getting a 'better deal' out of their GI benefits in covering higher for-profit tuition and fees," said Makese Motley, assistant director for federal policy for American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

Besides financial relief to non-resident veterans, the new law will guarantee in-state tuition to dependents of veterans who use transferred Post-9/11 benefits. That combination of breaks also could lower the federal government's tab for GI Bill benefits by

\$175 million during the next decade, CBO estimates.

Public colleges and universities set lower in-state tuition rates because most states subsidize education costs for their residents. So the new requirement for state-run schools to offer nonresident veterans lower rates, too, threatens to create funding shortfalls unless state legislatures vote to increase subsidies, or state-run schools opt to impose tuition hikes on all students.

But Hubbard, with Student Veterans of America, predicted the impact on state schools for compliance would be "fairly negligible." He used California as an example.

"It's a large system with lots of schools, lots of veterans," Hubbard said. "If the entire California sys-

tem were to grant tomorrow in-state tuition for student veterans, and those costs were distributed across the student population, the increase for other students would be about \$4* per semester. He compared that to student activity fees, which can range from \$25 to \$50.

The cost to any one school also should be marginal, Hubbard said.

Barmak Nassirian, director of federal policy at AACSCU, said his organization long has supported reducing tuition for veterans, both to limit their out-of-pocket costs and to provide "more attractive alternatives to predatory for-profit schools. Offering out-of-state veterans in-state tuition is certainly the best way of improving educational benefits for them."

But the in-state tuition requirement enacted as part of the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014 last month was "the least constructive" path Congress could have taken to achieve those key goals.

It legislated "the proverbial free lunch by mandating in-state tuition for veterans and their dependents" without covering "the significant costs this will impose on public colleges," Nassirian said.

But public colleges and universities will adapt, Nassirian said, and they still view access to education for veterans as a significant responsibility.

Send comments to Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centerville, VA, 20126, email milupdate@aol.com or twitter: Tom Philpott @Military_Update.

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Wash. governor launches statewide military alliance

By RACHEL LA CORTE

The Associated Press

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Washington state Gov. Jay Inslee on Wednesday renewed a statewide military alliance in an effort to fend off the economic effects of planned personnel cuts at Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

Inslee signed the agreement launching the Washington Military Alliance. More than 20 military and economic development leaders attended the signing.

Inslee noted that as of 2012, the state's military industry accounted for 136,000 jobs and \$15.7 billion in economic activity.

"This isn't just rhetoric," Inslee said. "It's numbers."

The group's goals include protecting the state's military and defense infrastructure, including the thousands of jobs tied to the industry throughout the state. The group will serve as a policy adviser to the governor and other state officials.

"It's really all about protecting the military assets that we have," said Rich Hadley, presi-

dent emeritus of Greater Spokane Inc., one of the groups that spoke on to the agreement. "It's a tough time. And we really have to work together if we're going to protect the assets that we already have."

In a letter sent to Army officials last month, Inslee said that cuts at the base would hurt the economy. The Army is studying the effects of force reductions at bases around the country. The review assumes a loss of about 16,000 soldiers and civilian workers at Lewis-McChord from the base's peak staffing level in 2011. Lewis-McChord has already been reduced by about 5,400.

Inslee has also challenged an Army economic analysis that found the state would lose just \$17.4 million in tax revenue through 2020. He said the figure could be four times that.

The military alliance was first formed in 2012, bringing together then-Gov. Chris Gregoire, members of the state's congressional delegation, state lawmakers and regional advocacy groups, in response to possible base closures.



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NATO SUMMIT

NATO vows to fund Afghan forces through '17

By JOSH SMITH
Stars and Stripes

NEWPORT, Wales — NATO's optimistic proclamations on Afghanistan were the head-line with a bleak reality on Thursday as leaders of the alliance met to discuss the final chapter in their aid to that country after nearly 13 years of war.

President Barack Obama and other NATO heads of state are meeting at a posh resort not far from the Welsh capital of Cardiff. Such events are typically well-scripted and offer few surprises, but this summit finds the alliance facing myriad security issues that challenge its capabilities and purpose.

Officials were careful to avoid any loaded talk of a "mission accomplished" in Afghanistan, and they readily acknowledged that there is a long road ahead, but NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen and British Prime Minister David Cameron insisted that the alliance is proud of its achievements.

"For over a decade, NATO allies and partner nations have stood should to shoulder in our

most challenging combat mission," Rasmussen said before a closed-door session to discuss the future of NATO involvement in Afghanistan. "We have done what we pledged to do."

But the news out of Afghanistan continued to cast a cloud of uncertainty over the discussions. As NATO heads of state gathered in Wales on Thursday, at least 12 Afghans died and more than 200 were injured by a suicide attack. NATO's International Security Assistance Force announced that another coalition soldier had died during an insurgent attack in eastern Afghanistan, underscoring the fact that more than 40,000 NATO and partner troops remain in the war-torn country.

And in an embarrassing incident, British media reported that a senior Afghan Army officer sought asylum upon arriving in the United Kingdom, although Afghan officials denied that he was part of the official delegation.

In addition, an unresolved presidential election meant there was no Afghan head of state to fete at the summit, complicating any messages of closure and undermining talk of future plans.

More immediately, the election dispute has left a critical agreement over future international troop commitments unsigned. Financial donors have said a peaceful political transition is a prerequisite for the future aid upon which Afghanistan relies.

Rising levels of violence have led Afghan officials to ask for more money to maintain the current number of some 350,000 security forces, rather than reducing them as envisioned by plans made several years ago.

While Rasmussen did not announce specific numbers, NATO officials privately admitted that contributor nations have resigned themselves to funding a larger number of Afghan troops than originally planned, at least for the near future.

"Today, nations renewed their financial commitments to support the sustainment of the ANSF, including to the end of 2017," a declaration released on Thursday by NATO read. "We also urge the wider international community to remain engaged in the financial sustainment of the ANSF."

Afghan Defense Minister Bismullah Khan Muhammad, who

was sent to represent Afghanistan, appeared satisfied with the response he received at the summit.

"The international community has strong support for Afghanistan," he told Stars and Stripes after the meeting with NATO leaders. "We came away with a reaffirmation of NATO's continued support for Afghanistan."

NATO donors pledged to help Afghanistan fund its security forces to the tune of \$5.1 billion per year, an increase over what was expected during the last NATO summit in 2012, Muhammad said.

But the challenges in Afghanistan have been overshadowed by NATO's Cold War foe, Russia, and the advances of the Islamic State in Iraq. Later on Thursday, NATO leaders moved on to the Ukraine conflict and Russia's involvement in the region, seen as one of the most pressing challenges to the



Muhammad

alliance.

The final day of the summit on Friday will feature sessions examining the future of NATO, a topic also expected to be dominated by Ukraine, as well as the bloody conflicts in the Middle East. Top American officials such as Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel and Secretary of State John Kerry are expected to meet with their counterparts in closed-door discussions.

U.S. officials say leaders will seek to use the experience in Afghanistan to lay the foundation for NATO's future.

"We're moving into a world in which NATO will be less salient in Afghanistan, but in which we want to capitalize on the lessons that we've learned, the partnerships that we've built — what we're calling the interoperability platform that has emerged where NATO members have learned to work with a very wide range of countries across the globe," Charles Kupchan, senior director for European Affairs at the National Security Council, told reporters during a conference call last week.

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Breedlove: Allies must prepare for Russian 'hybrid war'

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

NATO must help allies in the east bolster first-line defenses to counter any aggression from Russia, whose unconventional tactics in Ukraine could pose special challenges if deployed on alliance turf, Gen. Philip Breedlove, NATO's top military commander, said Thursday.

Before the incursion of what Western officials say are regular Russian troops into Ukraine, Moscow stirred unrest in other ways during the early stages of the crisis, Breedlove said during an Atlantic Council event that coincided with the start of NATO's two-day summit in Wales.

Russia's utilization of troops without national uniforms — the so-called "little green men" — and perhaps the most amazing information warfare blitzkrieg we have ever seen in the history of information warfare" were part of the first Russian push into Ukraine, Breedlove said.

NATO members, especially the Baltic states that border Russia,



Breedlove

must take into account such tactics as allies prepare for future threats, he said. That means steps should be taken to help build the capacity of other arms of government, such as interior ministries and police forces, to counter unconventional attacks, including propaganda campaigns, cyberattacks or homegrown separatist militias.

"What we see in Russia now, in this hybrid approach to war, is to use all the tools they have ... to stir up problems they can then begin to exploit through their military tool," said Breedlove. NATO's supreme allied commander.

By building up pre-crisis capabilities to deal with such tactics, nations will be better able to assign responsibility to an aggressor nation, which is key to triggering NATO involvement in

a crisis, Breedlove said.

"When you cannot attribute (to an aggressor), this causes problems," Breedlove said. "But the moment we attribute these actions to an aggressor nation, now this is Article 5. So we need to build the nations' ability to fight through that first onslaught, attribute to an aggressor nation, and then NATO Article 5 kicks in."

Article 5 is the NATO principle that an attack on one member requires a collective response from all.

Russia continues to deny it has forces in Ukraine, an assertion Breedlove described as absurd.

"We're observing Russian forces fighting alongside separatists inside Ukraine," Breedlove said. "Russian air defense assets are being used to conceal the advance of Russian tactical units throughout eastern Ukraine, and still, still, Moscow is continuing to deny any direct involvement across the border. Despite the casualties and deaths that are mounting of their own soldiers."

In Wales, NATO is expected to

act on plans to establish a more visible presence in eastern Europe with a focus on maintaining a troop presence at a series of bases in the region. NATO also needs a forward-stationed headquarters in the region that is focused on Article 5 preparedness, Breedlove said.

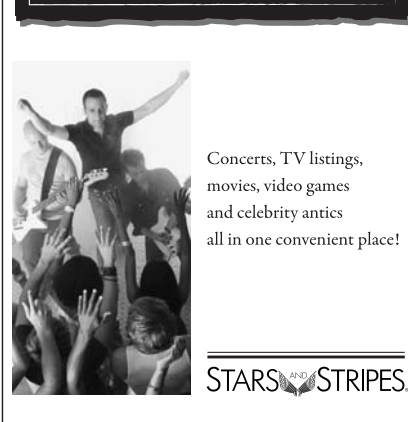
An increased presence, along with a NATO Response Force reshaped to better handle rapid-

reaction missions, is needed in answer to Russian aggression in Ukraine, Breedlove said. With an operational presence in the east, NATO will also have the ability to surge forces if needed.

"If we need to, we can rapidly respond with much larger and more capable forces if we see an act of aggression," Breedlove said.

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STARS AND STRIPES

Ukraine, rebels seen close to cease-fire

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Ukraine and the pro-Russia separatists appeared increasingly close to signing a deal to end four months of fighting, as NATO leaders including President Barack Obama expressed support for Ukraine at a NATO summit Thursday.

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said he's ready to order

a cease-fire in the east Friday if a peace deal is signed that day at talks in Minsk, Belarus. The rebels also said they were ready to declare a truce Friday if an agreement with Ukraine is reached on a political settlement for the mostly Russian-speaking region.

Poroshenko discussed the outlines of a deal with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday, and they both voiced

optimism about reaching an agreement in Minsk.

Before the summit's official proceedings began, Poroshenko attended a meeting with Obama and the leaders of NATO's four major European powers: British Prime Minister David Cameron, French President Francois Hollande, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi.

NATO SUMMIT

Russia stymies eastern hopes for NATO bases

Founding Act accord cited as Germany, others oppose request

By VANESSA GERA
The Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland — On the eve of a NATO summit, President Barack Obama gave the alliance's eastern European members a soaring assurance of protection from any Russian threat. But Poland and the Baltic states are seeking more than lofty words: They want permanent bases with troops on their land.

And they probably won't get that.

While the request from Poland, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia will be on the agenda at the summit in Wales, European heavyweight Germany and other members strongly oppose it. They argue that it would violate a 1997 agreement with Russia in which NATO pledges not to put "substantial combat forces" in central and eastern Europe.

The eastern NATO members suspect, however, that the accord with Russia is just a cover for not wanting to further damage economic relations. And Poland argues that the agreement, known as the Founding Act, has already been invalidated by Russia's annexation of Crimea.

Speaking in the Estonian capital, Tallinn, Obama declared on Wednesday: "You lost your independence once before. With NATO, you'll never lose it again." While that will be a heartening message for Poland and the Baltic states, there were no details of the kind of action that might back it up.

Germany has been specific about what it will not mean. In Latvia last month, German

Chancellor Angela Merkel said there will be "no permanent stationing of combat troops" on the alliance's eastern edge. While saying that she understands the concerns of the eastern members, she stressed that "we have ... a NATO-Russia Act that for the moment I do not want to overstep."

Days later Poland's defense minister, Tomasz Siemoniak, seemed resigned that the Sept. 4-5 summit would agree on lesser measures, such as rotations of NATO troops into the region and the pre-positioning of supplies there so NATO could react more quickly if attacked.

"This concept is OK with us. We don't want to make a fetish of the word 'permanent,'" Siemoniak said in an interview with the Rzeczpospolita newspaper.

NATO leaders are expected to agree on the creation of a rapid response force, a military unit that would be capable of deploying quickly to Eastern Europe. The plan includes the pre-positioning of equipment and logistics facilities in the region that would enable NATO to react quickly.

But it is less than the two heavy combat brigades that Polish Foreign Minister Radek Sikorski had called for in the spring — and it is clear that many Eastern Europeans are bitter.

Many Poles feel that the West treats it as a second-class NATO member in an attempt to appease Moscow. And they say it is unjust that Poland has helped its allies by sending troops to Afghanistan and Iraq but is being denied the security guarantees it now feels it needs.

"When a dangerous and un-



MINDAGAS KULBIS/AP

Soldiers from NATO countries practice in June during the military exercise Saber Strike 2014 at the Rukla military base, some 75 miles west of the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius.

pleasant task has to be performed, like sending thousands of troops across the world, Poland is told by its allies that it is in the West," commentator Jerzy Haszczyński wrote in Rzeczpospolita. "It is there 100 percent, without a doubt and without baggage from the time of Soviet domination. Everything changes when it's not Poland that has to do something, but the old West that has to do something for Poland."

Polish leaders have been arguing for months that it makes no sense for NATO to keep significant bases in places like Germany and Italy, far from any apparent threats, while keeping none on NATO's eastern flank now that Russia is growing more threatening.

Sikorski said that Poland only wants what West Germany had during the Cold War, when U.S. troops were stationed there as a deterrent to the sizable Soviet forces in East Germany.

"I am not saying that this is a new Cold War, or that we are back to this kind of confrontation," Sikorski said in a recent interview with the website www.ozy.

com. "But the forces that we are asking for are 1 percent of what (Germany) had in the 1980s."

There is no doubt that cash-strapped NATO members are also hesitant to commit to bases that could be there for years or decades. And those that have bases will be hesitant to give up the jobs and other economic advantages they bring. For instance, a permanent transfer of airmen from the NATO base in Aviano, Italy, to Eastern Europe would have ramifications in the area as Italy battles recession.

Romania, which is also nervous about Russian aggression in the Black Sea region, is also discussing plans for NATO to base fighter planes and personnel there. President Traian Basescu said Wednesday that 200 NATO pilots, mechanics and maintenance personnel will be stationed in Romania.

The Founding Act was signed in 1997, after the Soviet Union collapsed and NATO and a democratizing Russia were seeking a partnership. The agreement states that the two sides "do not consider each other as adversar-

ies" and would work for lasting peace. They vow not to use force against each other or to violate the territorial integrity or independence of any other state.

To appease Moscow, which was opposed to the expansion of NATO into parts of the former Soviet bloc, NATO agreed not to put substantial combat forces into the region.

"From the outset, countries like Poland were skeptical about an explicit pledge since it would create a kind of two-tiered alliance," said Jacek Dzikiewicz, a defense analyst with the Polish Institute of International Affairs.

Liana Fix, an associate fellow at the German Council on Foreign Relations, said that Germany's resistance to breaking with the Founding Act comes from a broader respect for treaties and other international obligations. Not provoking Russia with bases near its borders would also give Moscow room to back down from its confrontational approach, something Merkel's words in Riga seemed to suggest when she said that she wouldn't overstep the act "for the moment."

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MIDEAST

NATO: Rasmussen says the international community 'has obligation to stop Islamic State'

FROM FRONT PAGE

Arriving at the summit site on Thursday, NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said he believes the broader international community "has an obligation to stop the Islamic State from advancing further," but noted that the alliance hasn't received any request for help.

"I'm sure that if the Iraqi government were to forward a request for NATO assistance, that would be considered seriously by NATO allies," Rasmussen said.

Obama also met Thursday with Jordanian King Abdullah II, a key U.S. ally in the Middle East that's caught in the crossfire of the region's instability.

The Islamic State militants have claimed responsibility for murdering two American journalists, releasing gruesome videos of their beheadings. Both the U.S. and Britain are deeply concerned about the potential threat to their homelands that could come from the foreign fighters who have joined the violent Islamic State.

Cameron on Monday proposed new laws that would give police the power to seize the passports of Britons suspected of having traveled abroad to fight with terrorist groups.

The U.S. began launching airstrikes against Islamic State targets in Iraq last month, and both the U.S. and Britain have been making humanitarian aid drops to besieged minority groups there. Cameron said he hadn't ruled out joining the U.S. in airstrikes, but added that the priority was to support those already fighting the militants on the ground.

"If terrorists think we will weaken in the face of their threats they could not be more wrong," the two wrote. "Countries like Britain and America will not be cowed by barbaric killers. We will be more forthright in the defense of our values, not least because a world of greater freedom is a fundamental part of how we keep our

people safe."

Also facing Obama is a decision about whether to expand U.S. military action against the extremists in Syria. While Obama has said he's considering that step, he has suggested in recent days that it's not imminent.

U.S. officials say Obama is reluctant to delve into Syria's quagmire on his own. He's expected to use some of his discussions in Wales to try to build a coalition that could join him in confronting the Islamic State through a combination of military might, diplomatic pressure and economic penalties.

Obama and Cameron visited a local school Thursday morning, where they greeted students learning about NATO before sitting down for a private meeting. Later, the two met with their counterparts from France, Germany and Italy to discuss the crisis in Ukraine. In a show of Western solidarity, new Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko also joined the discussion.

Ukraine and Russia have been locked in a standoff for months, with pro-Moscow forces stirring instability in eastern Ukrainian cities. On the eve of the NATO summit, Russia and Ukraine said they were working on a deal to halt the fighting, but Western leaders expressed skepticism — noting it wasn't the first attempt to end the deadly conflict.

A centerpiece of the NATO summit will be the announcement of the rapid response force. Officials said the alliance could position at least 4,000 forces and military equipment in the Baltics and elsewhere in Eastern Europe.

"We must use our military to ensure a persistent presence in Eastern Europe, making clear to Russia that we will always uphold our Article 5 commitments to collective self-defense," Obama and Cameron wrote.

Under Article 5 of the NATO charter, an attack on one member state is viewed as an attack on the whole alliance.

Report: Top aide to ISIS leader al-Baghdadi, two others killed

Stars and Stripes

A senior aide to Islamic State commander Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi was killed in an airstrike in the Iraqi city of Mosul, media reports said Thursday.

Al Arabiya television, a Saudi Arabian station, and NBC reported the claim, citing the Iraqi Defense Ministry. NBC quoted an unnamed senior Iraqi security official as saying the U.S. carried out the attack.

A Pentagon spokesman, Col. Steve Warren, could not confirm the report, saying the U.S. has not targeted individual figures in the terrorist movement. Warren said the U.S. airstrikes have been directed against troop concentrations, threatening specific areas in the north, including the Mosul

dam and the Kurdish capital of Irbil.

"If there were leaders inside of ISIL, it is those leaders that have been attacked, then they will likely be killed," Warren said, using one of the acronyms for the Islamic State.

The Iraqi ministry identified the aide as Abu Hajar Al-Sufi and said two other Islamic State figures were killed. The ministry did not say how it knew about the purported deaths, and some Iraqi claims of tactical success against the militants have been exaggerated.

Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city, has been under Islamic State control since the Iraqi army collapsed in the north in June in the face of an insurgent offensive.



Targeting the Islamic State

Iraqi security forces and Shiite militiamen fire at Islamic State militant positions during an operation outside Amiri, some 105 miles north of Baghdad, on Wednesday. The Islamic State has carved out a self-styled caliphate in the large area straddling the Iraqi-Syrian border that it now controls. In early August, the United States launched airstrikes on the militant group in Iraq in an effort to help Iraqi forces fight back against the growing militant threat.

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MIDEAST

Islamic State has GOP back to 'hawkish ways'

BY SEBASTIAN PAYNE
AND ROBERT COSTA
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A roiling national debate over how to deal with the radical Islamic State and other global hot spots has prompted a sudden shift in Republican politics, putting a halt to the anti-interventionist mood that had been gaining credence in the party.

The change is evident on the campaign trail ahead of the November midterm elections and in recent appearances by the GOP's prospective 2016 presidential candidates, with a near-universal embrace of stronger military actions against the group that has headed two American journalists.

A hawkish tone has become integral to several key Republican Senate campaigns, with a group of candidates running in battleground states calling attention to their ties to veterans and their support for the U.S. military at every turn.

In contests in Iowa, Arkansas and Alaska — where Republicans are running for seats held by Democrats — the GOP candidates are military veterans and focusing much of their time extolling their expertise.

A third among many conservative activists for a more muscular U.S. foreign policy was clear over the weekend at a meeting of Americans for Prosperity, a tea-party-affiliated group backed by the billionaire Koch brothers. The loudest applause came when Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, a potential presidential candidate, called for bombing the Islamic State "back to the Stone Age."

Even Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., a leader of the GOP's anti-interventionist wing who is seen as a top-tier contender for the 2016 presidential nomination, has joined in the calls for a more hawkish approach.

The GOP's changing tenor on foreign policy underscores the extent to which the party continues to struggle to forge its identity in the wake of the George W. Bush presidency.

Libertarian-leaning conservatives gained momentum in part by criticizing the Iraq War and the growth of government on Bush's watch in the form of the National Security Agency's aggressive use of domestic surveillance.

The heightened clout led to clashes with prominent GOP hawks such as Sen. John McCain, of Arizona, and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who openly challenged Paul's worldview as weak and dangerous.

The tensions came to a head last year, when a measure to curtail the NSA's data collection was narrowly defeated in the GOP-led House and served as a warning to Republican officials that the Paul wing has ascendant inside Congress and willing to challenge the party's long-held positions on matters of foreign policy and national security.

Now, with a series of competitive Senate races poised to determine the control of the chamber and the GOP facing a wide-open



Brown

Cotton

Cruz

Paul

Perry

contest for its presidential nomination, growing public unease with the U.S. role in the world is prompting many Republicans to revert to a more familiar, anti-interventionist stance.

Not only are Republicans calling broadly for aggressive actions against the Islamic State, they are also accusing President Barack Obama of failing to stand up to Russian President Vladimir Putin and not doing enough to stand by Israel amid its recent fighting with Hamas.

New polling illustrates the shifting currents in the GOP — with concern about U.S. engagement in the world rising sharply over the past year and party members increasingly alarmed at the Obama administration's policies.

According to a Pew Research Center poll released last week, 46 percent of Republicans said the United States does "too little" to help. The global problems — a 28-point increase from the previous poll, last November. The percentage of Republicans who believe the U.S. does "too much" abroad has dropped from 52 percent to 37 percent.

"Things are moving back in that [hawkish] direction, reflecting the mood of most Americans who are angry at what they're seeing," said Brian Walsh, a former adviser to the National Republican Senatorial Committee. "Candidates are responding to that, and it is a product of the atmospherics."

William Kristol, editor of the Weekly Standard and a leading pro-interventionist voice on the right, said Republicans are moving back to their "inner hawkishness." He said some in the party had been "a little intimidated for a while... by the so-called libertarian moment" but that GOP candidates are now showing a greater willingness to extend their foreign policy statements beyond mere attacks on Obama.

"What heartens me is that [candidates] are going beyond that criticism and talking about the need for a different approach, about how we can't freak out when someone mentions potentially putting boots on the ground," Kristol said.

Recent moves by Paul illustrate how some top Republicans are still searching for the party's foreign policy sweet spot.

Two months ago, the Kentucky senator, who had been a vocal critic of the war in Iraq, wrote a Wall Street Journal op-ed chiding advocates for expanding the U.S. troop presence on the ground there and deploying airstrikes. He wrote that "many of those clamoring for military action now are the same people who made

every false assumption imaginable about the cost, challenge and purpose of the Iraq war."

But with the Islamic State taking center stage in recent days, Paul has started to sound more sympathetic to an interventionist policy.

"If I were president, I would call a joint session of Congress. I would lay out the reasoning of why ISIS is a threat to our national security and seek congressional authorization to destroy ISIS militarily," Paul said in a statement released by his office.

Doug Stafford, a Paul adviser, said Wednesday that the senator was never an isolationist or non-interventionist. Stafford pointed to an article published this week in the Federalist, a conservative news website, titled "Why Calling Rand Paul an Isolationist Is Was Stupid," as a summary of Paul camp's view on the kerfuffle over his worldview. The article says that "preferring a smaller international military footprint is hardly isolationism."

Several party strategists said that this year's midterms have offered an opportunity for the GOP

to at least present the appearance of a unified front on foreign affairs.

In Iowa, GOP Senate candidate Joni Ernst, a lieutenant colonel in the Iowa National Guard, has reminded voters that she would be the first female combat veteran to serve in the U.S. Senate. She recently took two weeks off from campaigning to complete her annual training. She has also discussed her own experience with sexual violence in the military and told ABC News last month that she would have supported "leaving additional troops in Iraq longer."

In Arkansas, Republican Senate candidate Tom Cotton, an Army veteran, recently aired an ad showing him in fatigues with a somber narration on how "serious times demand serious leaders."

Former Massachusetts Sen. Scott Brown, a retired Army National Guard colonel running for Senate in New Hampshire, has also turned intently to foreign policy in recent weeks, hosting a forum on "America's leadership standing in the world" alongside McCain and sharply criticizing

Obama.

A reckoning looms immediately after the midterms, when the presidential primary scramble begins.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry, for instance, has attached himself squarely with the pro-interventionist wing, criticizing those in his party who favor less military involvement at a time of rising Islamic extremism.

Perry warned the activists gathered for the Americans for Prosperity meeting that "America has to act to confront this evil, because if we don't, the price is only going to go up from here." Grassroots favorite Ben Carson, a doctor-turned-political activist, drew cheers when he declared, "When we get through with ISIS, it should be IS-*was*."

The opening for a hawk in the GOP field has even enticed U.S. Ambassador John Bolton, who advocated for a muscular foreign policy during the George W. Bush administration, to consider a White House bid. Bolton's political action committees have raised millions, and he visited Florida in August to stump for state Republicans.

The re-emergence of the hawks is no doubt a response to the feelings of conservative activists such as Nancy Sterman, a grandmother and business owner who attended the Koch group's meeting.

"ISIS is a global economy military security. Obamacare — there's a new crisis every week that adds to the frustration of the American people," she said. "But, thankfully, people are waking up."

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SCAN WITH PHONE



MIDEAST

Hagel: More than 100 Americans fighting with Islamic State

By JAMES ROSEN

McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said Wednesday that more than 100 Americans are fighting with Islamic State militants, the first time the Pentagon chief has put a number on U.S. citizens aiding the terrorists.

Hagel cited the Americans aiding the jihadists to illustrate the threat that the Islamic State poses to the United States.

"We are aware of over 100 U.S. citizens who have U.S. passports who are fighting in the Middle East with ISIL forces," Hagel told CNN, using the U.S. government's preferred acronym for the Islamic State. "There may be more. We don't know."

U.S. intelligence officials have said that as many as 300 Americans may have joined forces with the Islamic State. They are among thousands of Westerners believed to be fighting alongside the militants.

Hagel spoke after U.S. analysts verified as real a video released Tuesday showing the beheading of Steven Sotloff, the second American journalist slain in such a gruesome manner, following the slaying of James Foley, a video of which was posted Aug. 19.

"It makes you sick to your

stomach, but it again reminds you of the brutality and barbarism that is afoot in some places in the world," Hagel said.

Vice President Joe Biden used stronger words Wednesday during a speech in Portsmouth, N.H.

"When people harm Americans, we don't retreat, we don't forget," Biden said. "We take care of those who are grieving."

His voice rising to almost a shout, Biden added: "And when that's finished, they should know we will follow them to the gates of hell until they are brought to justice — because hell is where they will reside. Hell is where they will reside."

President Barack Obama employed more restrained language in making a similar point.

"Those who make the mistake of harming Americans will learn that we will not forget that our reach is long and that justice will be served," Obama told reporters in the Estonian capital of Tallinn.

Obama was to join other allied leaders Thursday and Friday at a NATO summit in Wales.

In the videos released by the Islamic State, the black-shrouded figures who beheaded Foley and Sotloff spoke with a British accent. About 500 Britons are believed to be fighting with the group, along with hundreds more from France, Russia and other European countries.

Al-Qaida leader says it has expanded into India

By TIM SULLIVAN

The Associated Press

NEW DELHI — Promising to "storm your barricades with cars packed with gunpowder," al-Qaida announced Thursday it had created an Indian branch that the terror network vowed would bring Islamic rule to the entire subcontinent.

The announcement by al-Qaida leader Ayman al-Zawahiri brought fresh signs of increased security in India even after the government ordered states to be on alert. Instead, al-Zawahiri's announcement by online video appeared directed more at his own rivals in the international jihad movement, analysts said.

"This is really very personal," said Fawaz Gerges, a Middle East expert at the London School of Economics. "You cannot understand this announcement without understanding the fierce rivalry between Islamic State and al-Qaida."

Al-Qaida has been increasingly overshadowed by the Islamic State group, a renegade al-Qaida offshoot that was expelled amid internal divisions and that has gone on to capture vast territory in Syria and Iraq, including oil wells and other income-generating re-

sources, and has inspired thousands of fighters to join its jihadist mission. Al-Zawahiri, in turn, has found his own influence pale beside that of Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

In India, where terror threats largely have come from Pakistan and Kashmir, the disputed Himalayan region where al-Qaida's influence is thought to be minimal, many derided the creation of the group — Qaeda al-Jihad in the Indian Subcontinent — as a publicity stunt.

Al-Qaida "is struggling for its legitimacy in the eyes of the radicalized Muslim world," said Ajai Sahni, a top Indian security analyst with the New Delhi-based Institute for Conflict Management.

"Osama bin Laden has been killed and (al-Qaida's) entire top leadership, apart from Zawahiri and a few others, one by one have been decimated by the American drone attacks," he said. "This statement is meaningless."

But Gerges noted al-Qaida has long tried to nurture as many cells as possible, using affiliates in places like Yemen and East Africa to take pressure off relentless American attacks on its core operations in Pakistan and Afghanistan.



PHOTOS BY ARIEL SCHALLITZ/AP

A group of armed men gather at Syria's Quneitra border crossing Aug. 29 between Syrian- and Israeli-controlled parts of the Golan Heights.

Israel worries with Syrian al-Qaida on its doorstep

By DANIEL ESTRIN

The Associated Press

MEROM GOLAN, Golan Heights — For the first time in the Syrian civil war, al-Qaida fighters are hunkered down on Israel's doorstep, and Israelis in the lush, hilly Golan Heights who have long considered Syrian President Bashar Assad their bitter foe are now worried about something more ominous — that they could become the militants' next target.

The push into the Golan by the Nusra Front, as al-Qaida's branch in Syria is known, comes just two weeks after Israel ended a 50-day war against Hamas on its southern border with the Gaza Strip, giving the conflict-weary nation another cause for concern.

Israelis in the Golan have grown accustomed to hearing the sound of distant battles between rival forces in Syria's civil war.

But last week's seizure of the strategic Quneitra border crossing by a mix of rebels — including the Nusra Front, fighters of the Western-backed Free Syrian Army and others — has created an unprecedented situation that has brought the extremists to within just a few yards of Israeli positions.

"The Syrian government is 'not our cup of tea,'" said Gabi Kuniel, an Israeli who tends vineyards recently damaged by mortar shells when the violence spilled over to the Israeli-held side of the strategic Golan Heights.

But "we prefer that the Syrian army controls this region and not a group of radical al-Qaida-Muslim people," he said Wednesday, sitting behind a concrete struc-



Israeli soldiers secure an area Aug. 27 where a mortar fired during clashes between Syrian rebels and President Bashar Assad's forces in the Quneitra province hit in a community in the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights.

ture near his fields to stay out of the line of fire.

As he spoke, heavy machine-gun fire could be heard in the distance. Earlier, a plume of smoke rose from the Syrian side of the frontier fence.

For the past three years, Israelis in the Golan have had a relatively safe front seat view of the civil war as Syrian government forces battled rebels attempting to wrest control of the area.

But now the Nusra Front and the other rebels move around in camouflaged trucks and on foot with guns slung over their shoulders, in some cases just 50 yards away from Israeli military outposts and Israeli farmers' fields. Some Israelis are convinced it's a matter of time before the Islamic radicals set their sights on them.

"They'll come at us in the end, I

have no doubt," said Yehiel Gadis, 56, peering through a small pair of binoculars at an Israeli lookout point across from Syria's Quneitra crossing.

"The entire Arab world is furious with us," said his friend, Yigal Bashan, 57.

The two men, who live in central Israel, were on a sightseeing trip in the region and were among some two dozen curiosity seekers who stopped at the lookout.

Israel captured the Golan, a plateau overlooking northern Israel, from Syria in the 1967 Mideast war. It later annexed the area, a move that has never been recognized internationally. Since the aftermath of the subsequent 1973 war, U.N. monitors have helped to enforce a stable truce and the area has been tense but generally quiet.

NATION

Violence rocks Tenn. detention center where 32 escaped

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — A violent disturbance broke out involving more than 20 teens at the same Nashville juvenile detention center where more than 30 escaped earlier this week.

About 28 teens — some of whom had also escaped during Monday's massive breakout — were involved in the latest incident that began Wednesday night, Tennessee Department of Children's Services spokesman Rob Johnson said. The teens had gotten out of their dorm and were roaming the campus.

Video shot by Nashville station WTVF showed teens chasing and assaulting a man who appeared to be a staff member at the detention center. Photos published by Nashville newspaper The Tennessean showed teens in the detention center yard carrying sticks. One photo showed someone spraying a fire extinguisher.

Two staff members at the center suffered minor injuries, Johnson said.

Teams from the Tennessee Department of Correction, who are trained to handle uprising, entered the detention center early Thursday and took the teens into custody. Ten ringleaders of the

incident were identified and were taken to another detention center, Johnson said. The rest were returned to their dorms.

While the teens were outside their dorms, police formed a ring around the detention center's perimeter fence to make sure no one escaped.

Thirty-two teens escaped from the detention center Monday night. Officials said they had kicked out metal panels under the windows in common areas of their dorms to reach the courtyard and slipped out under a weak spot in the perimeter fence. Six of them remained at large.

Johnson said the same panels kicked out during the Monday escape were kicked out again to get to the yard Wednesday night. Officials have begun repairing and reinforcing the panels and will try to get concrete put at the bottom of the perimeter fence, Johnson said.

The detention center has a long history of violence, allegations of sexual abuse and previous efforts to escape. In 2010, the U.S. Department of Justice ranked Woodland Hills as 13th in the country among juvenile facilities where there had been reports of sexual abuse by staffers.

Police agencies use tech to ID troubled officers

By TAMI ABDOLLAH

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Police departments across the U.S. are using technology to try to identify problem officers before their misbehavior harms innocent people, embarrasses their employers, or invites costly lawsuits — from citizens or the federal government.

While such "early warning systems" are often treated as a cure-all, experts say, little research exists on their effectiveness or — more importantly — if they're even being used properly.

During the past decade, such systems have become the gold standard in accountability policing with at least 39 percent of law enforcement agencies, according to the most recent data from the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics.

The issue of police-community relations was thrust into the spotlight after an officer fatally shot Michael Brown in Missouri. Since then, departments have held public forums to build trust with residents. Some are testing cameras mounted to officers to monitor their interactions with the public.

Experts say the early warning system can be another powerful

tool to help officers do their jobs and improve relations, but it is only as good as the people and departments using it.

"It's not a guarantee that you will catch all of those officers that are struggling," said Jim Bueermann of the nonprofit Police Foundation, which is dedicated to better policing. "These systems are designed to give you a forewarning of problems and then you have to do something."

The aim is to avoid cases in which the first evidence of a troubled officer is a YouTube video showing them excessively beating a suspect. Such incidents stoke public fears about police and can result in huge monetary settlements.

The systems track factors such as how often officers are involved in shootings, get complaints, use sick days and get into car accidents. When officers hit a specific threshold, they're supposed to be flagged and supervisors notified so appropriate training or counseling can be assigned.

Some law enforcement agencies adopted the systems under agreements they entered into with the federal government after officers were accused of abuse, including departments in Seattle, which is currently working to implement such a system, and Los Angeles.



JOHN LOCHER/AP

Wage protest

Protesters chant for increased wages and union rights at fast food restaurants Thursday in Las Vegas in the latest attempt to escalate their efforts to get McDonald's, Burger King and other fast-food companies to pay their employees at least \$15 an hour.

Source: Feds to investigate Ferguson police practices

By ERIC TUCKER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department plans to open a wide-ranging civil rights investigation into the practices of the Ferguson, Mo., Police Department following the shooting last month of an unarmed black 18-year-old by a white police officer in the St. Louis suburb, a person briefed on the matter said Wednesday night.

The person said the investigation could be announced as early as Thursday afternoon. Missouri officials were notified Wednesday of the probe.

The investigation will look at the practices in the past few years of the police department, including patterns of stops, arrests and use-of force, as well as the training the officers receive,

the person said.

The inquiry is separate from an ongoing civil rights investigation the Justice Department is conducting into the shooting of Michael Brown, 18, by Officer Darren Wilson on Aug. 9. A local grand jury is also investigating the shooting, which set off about two weeks of unrest in the streets of Ferguson and became a flash point in the national discussion of police treatment of minorities across the country. Attorney General Eric Holder two weeks ago visited the St. Louis suburb, where he met with investigators and Brown's parents and shared his own personal experiences of having been mistreated by the police.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation, first reported by The Washington Post, had not yet

been announced.

Ferguson Police Chief Tom Jackson did not immediately return a call seeking comment about the Justice Department investigation.

Police have said the shooting followed a scuffle that broke out after Wilson told Brown and a friend to move out of the street and onto a sidewalk. Police say Wilson was pushed into his squad car and physically assaulted. Some witnesses have reported seeing Brown's arms up in the air before the shooting in an act of surrender.

The new investigation, though, goes far beyond the circumstances of the shooting. It will look at the actions of a police department that is predominantly white even though Ferguson is about 70 percent black.

La. ruling ends pro-gay marriage streak

By KEVIN MCGILL

The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — It was a rare loss for gay-marriage supporters — one that even the judge who issued the ruling acknowledged won't be the final word.

"Clearly, many other courts will have an opportunity to take up the issue of same-sex marriage; courts of appeals and, at some point, the U.S. Supreme Court," U.S. District Judge Martin Feldman wrote in upholding Louisiana's ban on same-sex marriage and its refusal to recognize same-sex marriages performed legally in other states.

"The decision of this Court is but one studied decision among many."

Feldman's ruling Wednesday was the first to uphold a state ban since the U.S. Supreme Court struck down part of the federal Defense of Marriage Act last year.

Gay-marriage supporters had won more than 20 consecutive rulings overturning bans in other states. They said they would take the Louisiana case to the New Orleans-based 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which already has before it an appeal by the state of Texas of another federal

judge's ruling that struck down that state's gay marriage ban.

In 2004, 78 percent of Louisiana voters approved an amendment to the state constitution banning gay marriage. Gay marriage is legal in 19 states and the District of Columbia.

Feldman said gay-marriage supporters failed to prove the ban violates equal-protection or due-process provisions of the U.S. Constitution. He also rejected an argument that the ban violated the First Amendment by effectively forcing legally married gay couples to state that they are single on Louisiana income tax returns.

NATION

CAMPING: IN VEGAS?

Hitching up an RV near the Strip is a spectacle in itself

By JOHN M. GLIONNA
Los Angeles Times

LAS VEGAS — Canadians Harley and Linda Sponagle are in the midst of a cross-continental camping adventure, navigating 15,000 miles of blue highway across North America before ending where they began, in Nova Scotia.

Their 1995 Pleasure Way van with the "Visit Labrador" decal has stopped at 69 campsites in two nations, most of them bucolic oases with green grass, wild animals and peaceful vibes.

But not this one. The Sponagles recently landed in the KOA campground on the Las Vegas Strip. The place represents one of the most bizarre accommodations in Sin City, offering wayfarers a place to park their road-weary behemoths within walking distance of a galaxy of gambling temples and their nonstop street scene.

The couple anchored on an ocean of asphalt in the Circus Circus parking lot, an expanse dotted by a few forlorn olive trees that seemed to gasp for breath in the 110-degree heat, too weary to offer any shade. The day was so infernal that one visiting kid ran across the lot toward

the pool chanting "Ouch-ouch-ouch," even though his feet were protected by flip-flops.

Many nights, police sirens wail as this city's particular brand of wildlife wanders over from the 24-hour strip



PHOTOS BY FRANCINE ORR, LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

Modesto, Calif., residents Carlos Meza, left, and Isabela Meza unload their bikes as they set up camp for the night at the KOA campground on the Las Vegas Strip. In late September, the camp will lose its lease with Circus-Circus, which has other development plans that have sent KOA officials looking for a new site.

'The Vegas philosophy has changed. ... The way we implode our history, people will soon forget there ever was a KOA on the Strip.'

Oscar Goodman
former mayor of Las Vegas

joiners nearby. The dawn brings the hammering chop-chop of the first helicopters leaving for Grand Canyon tours.

Despite all this, the Sponagles are two happy campers: Harley says he'd trade a possible case of poison ivy for a go at a slot machine any day.

"This is our favorite stop on the whole trip," said the 65-year-old retired electrician, a native of Mount Uniacke, a woody town of about 3,500. "The staff are just top-notch."

He gazed over his shoulder. "And then there's this." On the horizon towered the 1,149-foot-tall Stratosphere.

There are no statuary sequoias, no towering cliffs. But the looming hotels along

the Strip and their 160,000-odd rooms make for a Grand Canyon of frolic.

"It's a campground right on the Strip," said Terry Shade, vice president of company-owned properties for Campgrounds of America. "You can underline that and take it to the bank."

But not for long. In late September, the camp will lose its lease with Circus Circus, which plans to clear the land for an outdoor festival area. Casino officials say they haven't ruled out a smaller renovated RV park for the future that would open seasonally. Meanwhile, KOA, whose familiar yellow and red logo can be spotted at campgrounds across the

country, is looking for a new local site.

Many Vegas observers rue the change, criticizing this city's quick amnesia for the past. Even onetime Mayor Oscar Goodman, an indefatigable cheerleader for everything Las Vegas, finds fault with KOA's departure from the Strip.

"The Vegas philosophy has changed," Goodman said. "Now the bottom line really counts. And all those with nostalgia need to step aside. The way we implode our history, people will soon forget there ever was a KOA on the Strip."

For now, the campground remains busy as RVs of all shapes and sizes roll up to the check-in building, which is topped by a circus tent theme. On a recent weekend, the vehicles were lined up — a Four Winds, Leprechaun and Minnie-Winnie next to a Sightseer and Fleetwood RV with the Tweety Bird cartoon character on the spare tire cover.

There are no tent sites here, just a few football fields of hard-as-rock tarmac where on the hottest days rubber tires melt on their rims. Those campground guests without wheels who still crave the outdoor experience can rent one of two art-deco Airstream campers that look like silver toasters baking in the sun.

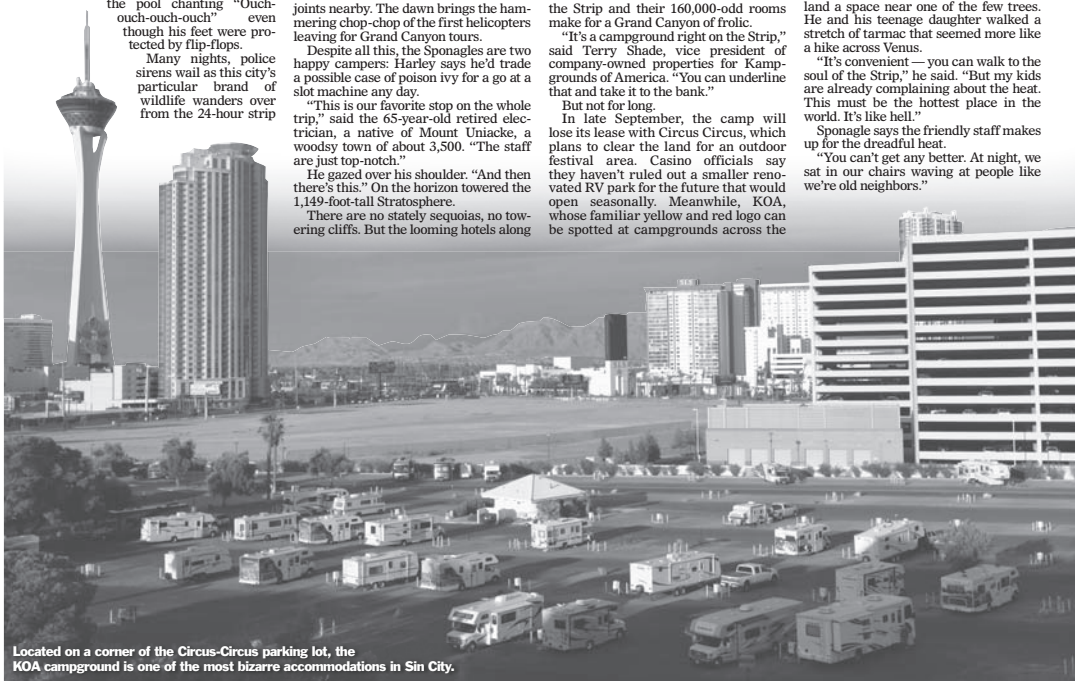
During the summer months, the campsite's 400 spaces are populated by mostly foreign visitors who rent RVs for cross-country tours. On a recent day there was a family from Israel dashing toward the pool for a midday swim and a couple from Switzerland, who parked here because "it's the place RVs come to sleep."

And there was Ivo Steenhuisen, 46, a Dutch tourist who was lucky enough to land a space near one of the few trees. He and his teenage daughter walked a stretch of tarmac that seemed more like a hike across Venus.

"It's convenient — you can walk to the soul of the Strip," he said. "But my kids are already complaining about the heat. This must be the hottest place in the world. It's like hell."

Sponagle says the friendly staff makes up for the dreadful heat.

"You can't get any better. At night, we sat in our chairs waving at people like we're old neighbors."



Located on a corner of the Circus-Circus parking lot, the KOA campground is one of the most bizarre accommodations in Sin City.

NATION



New York teenager Joseph Beer smoked about \$20 worth of marijuana before getting into this Subaru Impreza with four friends in October 2012 and driving over 100 mph before crashing into trees with such force that it split the car in half. As states liberalize their marijuana laws, public officials and safety advocates worry that more stoned drivers will lead to a spike in traffic deaths.

‘Speed and weed’: A risky combination?

Marijuana’s contribution to highway deaths remains hazy

By JOAN LOWY
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — New York teenager Joseph Beer smoked marijuana, climbed into a Subaru Impreza with four friends and drove more than 100 mph before losing control. The car crashed into trees with such force that the vehicle split in half, killing his friends.

Beer, who was 17 in October 2012 when the crash occurred, pleaded guilty to aggravated vehicular homicide and was sentenced last week to 5 years to 15 years in prison.

As states liberalize their marijuana laws, public officials and safety advocates worry there will be more stoned drivers and a big increase in traffic deaths. It’s not clear, though, whether those concerns are merited. Researchers are divided on the question. A prosecutor blamed the Beer crash on “speed and weed,” but a jury that heard expert testimony on marijuana’s effects at his trial deadlocked on a homicide charge and other felonies related to whether the teenager was impaired by marijuana. Beer was convicted of manslaughter and reckless driving charges.

Studies of marijuana’s effects show that the drug can slow decision-making, decrease peripheral vision and impede multitasking, all of which are important driving skills. But unlike with alcohol, drivers who have consumed mar-

“We don’t know enough about the scope of marijuana-impaired driving to call it a big or small problem. But anytime a driver has their ability impaired, it is a problem.”

Jonathan Adkins
Governors Highway Safety Association

ijuana tend to be aware that they are impaired and try to compensate by driving slowly, avoiding risky actions such as passing other cars, and allowing extra room between vehicles.

On the other hand, combining marijuana with alcohol appears to eliminate the pot smoker’s exaggerated caution and to increase driving impairment beyond the effects of either substance alone.

“We see the legalization of marijuana in Colorado and Washington as a wake-up call for all of us in highway safety,” said Jonathan Adkins, executive director of the Governors Highway Safety Association, which represents state highway safety officials.

“We don’t know enough about the scope of marijuana-impaired driving to call it a big or small problem. But anytime a driver has

their ability impaired, it is a problem.”

In Washington, there was a jump of nearly 25 percent in drivers testing positive for marijuana in 2013 — the first full year after legalization — but no corresponding increase in car accidents or fatalities.

Dr. Mehmet Sofuoglu, a Yale University Medical School expert on drug abuse who testified at Beer’s trial, said studies of marijuana and crash risk are “highly inconclusive.” Some studies show a two- or three-fold increase, while others show none, he said. Some studies even showed less risk if someone was marijuana-positive, he testified.

Teenage boys and young men are the most likely drivers to smoke pot and the most likely drivers to have an accident regardless of whether they’re high, he said.

“Being a teenager, a male teenager, and being involved in reckless behavior could explain both at the same time — not necessarily marijuana causing getting into accidents, but a general reckless behavior leading to both conditions at the same time,” Sofuoglu told jurors.

Inexperienced pot smokers are likely to be more impaired than habitual smokers, who develop a tolerance. Some studies show virtually no driving impairment in habitual smokers.

Two recent studies that used similar data to assess crash risk came to opposite conclusions.

Marijuana behind the wheel: What to know

The legalization of recreational marijuana in two states — Colorado and Washington — and medical marijuana in more than 20 others has raised concern that there will be more drivers stoned behind the wheel. What’s not clear is whether that will translate into an increase in fatal crashes. Five things to know about marijuana and driving:

1 WHAT WE KNOW

While marijuana users can perform simple tasks well while they are high, brain imaging has shown they have to use more of their brain to do so. Their reaction times are slower, peripheral vision is decreased and multitasking impeded. As a result, when sudden or surprising things occur to complicate those tasks — such as when a pedestrian steps in front of a car — they cannot respond as well. On the other hand, marijuana users tend to be aware they are impaired and try to compensate for it.

2 WHAT WE DON’T KNOW

It’s not clear how much marijuana use contributes to crash risk. Some studies have found that marijuana can double crash risk, but others have found virtually no increase.

3 HOW HIGH IS TOO HIGH?

Traces of THC, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana, can be detected in the blood of some habitual marijuana users days or weeks after they last used the drug, making it hard to use blood tests to discern a current level of impairment. Most states haven’t set a THC threshold for impairment, but Colorado and Washington have settled on an intoxication blood level of 5 parts per billion. There’s no roadside test for THC like those for alcohol, but some states are experimenting with a saliva test.

4 REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE

In 2013, the first full year after Washington state legalized pot, nearly 25 percent more drivers tested positive for marijuana than before legalization. But there has been no corresponding jump in accidents or arrests for intoxicated driving. A University of Colorado Medical School study found that the share of drivers involved in fatal motor vehicle crashes in Colorado who tested positive for marijuana more than doubled between 1994 and 2011. A National Safety Council study looked at the prevalence of drivers involved in fatal crashes who tested positive for marijuana in 12 states from 1992 to 2009, before and after implementing medical marijuana laws. Only three states showed an increase — California, Hawaii and Washington — and those appeared to be a one-time increase possibly associated with differences in testing.

5 WHAT NEXT?

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is conducting research to get a better idea of how pot affects driving. NHTSA and Washington state officials have also teamed up to assess change in marijuana use by drivers before and after the state allowed retail sale of the drug, with results due next year.

— Joan Lowy

NATION

By TONY PERRY
Los Angeles Times

Battered by controversy over its treatment of killer whales, SeaWorld San Diego announced Aug. 15 that it plans to double the size of its orca environment, contribute an additional \$10 million to research on the species and establish an independent advisory committee of scientists to oversee its orca program.

Called the Blue World Project, the new orca environment will be nearly double the size of the current facility, covering 1.5 acres at 50 feet deep and 350 feet in length.

The new pool will allow visitors to see the orcas from a vantage point below the water line, SeaWorld officials said in an announcement.

The new space, described as the first of its kind, is slated to be completed by 2018, officials said. SeaWorld parks at Orlando, Fla., and San Antonio, Texas, will follow with similar projects, officials said.

"Through up-close and personal encounters, the new environment will transform how visitors experience killer whales," said Jim Atchison, chief executive officer and president of SeaWorld Entertainment Inc.

SeaWorld San Diego has 10 orcas. The cost of the new habitat for them was not released.

"Our guests will be able to walk alongside the whales as if they were at the shore, watch them interact at the depths found in the ocean, or a birds-eye view from above," Atchison added.

The advisory group, whose goal is to maximize the "health and well-being" of SeaWorld's orcas, will include an emeritus professor at the University of California, Davis veterinary school, a researcher at University of California, Santa Cruz, a physiologist at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, and others.

The additional \$10 million will support projects sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration into the hearing, reproduction and nutrition of orcas in the wild.

The new plans did not impress a main critic of SeaWorld's orca program, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, which has called for the orcas to be put in large-scale ocean sanctuaries.

"This is a desperate drop-in-the-bucket move to try to turn back the clock at a time when people understand the suffering of captive orcas, and it will not save the company," said the group's director of animal law, Jared Goodman. "A bigger prison is still a prison."

The announcement was also clearly meant to influence both the public and Wall Street.

The announcement, complete with statements of support from local elected officials, comes during a week in which SeaWorld's economic picture took a nosedive and doubts were raised on Wall Street that it can recover from the controversy sparked by the documentary "Blackfish," which condemned the parks' treatment

Controversy-sea

Amid 'Blackfish' backlash, SeaWorld set to expand orca environments



PHOTOS BY DON BARTLETT, LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

SeaWorld San Diego visitors view a killer whale through a window at the park earlier this month. SeaWorld announced that it plans to double the size of the killer whale environments at its parks.



Orca whales swim in a pool with trainers before a performance at SeaWorld San Diego.

'... Grateful to SeaWorld for the investment in these new facilities. The changes they're announcing will enhance the experience for the animals, workers and visitors of the park.'

Todd Gloria
San Diego City Council president

'This is a desperate drop-in-the-bucket move to try to turn back the clock at a time when people understand the suffering of captive orcas, and it will not save the company. A bigger prison is still a prison.'

Jared Goodman
director of animal law for PETA



Shamu Stadium is packed with spectators at SeaWorld San Diego on Aug. 14.

of orcas.

On Aug. 13, shares of SeaWorld Entertainment Inc., which has 11 theme parks, dropped 33 percent after the company's earnings missed Wall Street expectations.

The Orlando, Fla.-based company also conceded for the first time that attendance at its theme parks has been hurt by negative publicity caused by a drumbeat from animal-activists about the alleged maltreatment of the orcas.

At SeaWorld San Diego, the orca show at Shamu Stadium has long been the marquee attraction.

The company reported 6.6 million visitors at its parks in the April-to-June period, nearly flat compared with the same period in 2013.

Net income was \$37 million, or 43 cents a share. Analysts had expected 60 cents a share.

Sales fell 1 percent to \$405.2 million.

On Aug. 14, Standard & Poor's lowered SeaWorld Entertainment's credit rating to BB- from BB, pushing the rate further below investment grade, also known as junk bonds. "The negative outlook reflects our belief that the company faces significant challenges regarding reputational risk and potential improvements in operating performance beyond 2014," Standard & Poor's said in a statement.

Standard & Poor's cited "negative media reports that have specifically targeted the company's use of orca whales for entertainment purposes" as contributing to lower attendance and spending at the parks.

A bill by Assemblyman Richard Bloom (D-Santa Monica, Calif.), now stalled in the state legislature, would ban the park from breeding its orcas or using them for "entertainment."

The bill this spring was sent by an Assembly committee for "interim study," an ill-defined process that could take a year or longer.

SeaWorld officials insist the breeding program helps researchers study the orcas' estrous cycles and gestation, and also "enriches the lives of our animals by allowing them to experience, interact with and help raise another member of their pod."

Located on city property, SeaWorld San Diego attracts 4.4 million people a year and pays for more than \$14 million a year to the city.

During the summer, the park employs 4,500 workers, putting it in league with Qualcomm, Northrop-Grumman and the Navy as a major San Diego employer.

Despite the controversy, political support for SeaWorld remains strong in San Diego. Earlier this year, the city council voted to proclaim March as SeaWorld Month to celebrate the park's 50th anniversary.

In a statement included with the announcement, city council president Todd Gloria said he is "grateful to SeaWorld for the investment in these new facilities. The changes they're announcing today will enhance the experience for the animals, workers, and visitors of the park."

WORLD

Samsung takes aim at iPhone 6

Products announced at Berlin show

By FRANK JORDANS
AND ANICK JESDANUN
The Associated Press

BERLIN — Samsung's new smartphones aren't getting bigger, but one will have a side display for quick access to the flashlight, Twitter, news and frequently used apps.

The Galaxy Note Edge was announced at a trade show in Berlin on Wednesday, alongside the new Galaxy Note 4 phone, which lacks the side screen, and a virtual-reality headset called Gear VR. They are due for release in October — in time for holiday shopping — and aim to compete with Apple's new iPhones due to be unveiled next week.

The Edge uses Samsung's flexible-display technology, which came out with much fanfare last year but has seen little use beyond a phone and a fitness device with displays that were slightly curved.

With the Edge, Samsung is offering a practical use for the curvature. While the main screen remains flat like previous phones, the right edge extends and curves until it reaches the back. That creates a side display so information such as weather and time can be seen from the side when the phone is laid on a table or nightstand.

With the side display, the phone's camera functions more like a stand-alone, point-and-shoot camera, as the shutter button and other functions appear on top when the phone is held horizontally.

The side display also provides one-tap access to various apps normally found on the home

screen. It will also have a panel of tools, like the flashlight and stop-watch, akin to what Apple offers in the iPhone's Control Center with a swipe up from the bottom. Samsung will look to app developers to find new ways to use the feature.

Samsung didn't announce prices. In the U.S., last year's Galaxy Note 3 went for about \$700 without a contract, or \$300 with one. Prices are likely to be similar when the Note 4 comes out in October through all four national carriers in the U.S. The Edge will likely cost more.

Analysts said the new display feature could cut both ways.

"An edge-based display will give Samsung's smartphone clear differentiation in a crowded market," said Ian Fogg, an analyst covering the mobile industry at IHS in London. "But for Samsung to maximize the potential of an edge display it needs third party apps to support the display with additional Samsung-specific functions," he said.

Samsung made the announcements at the IFA trade show, one of the world's largest consumer electronics showcases for consumer electronics and home appliances.

The new phones were announced amid expectations that Apple will unveil new iPhones next week. The iPhone 6 is expected to feature a 4.7-inch screen, up from the current 4 inches, to make it more competitive with larger smartphones made by Samsung and other companies. There has been speculation that Apple may also unveil an iPhone with a 5.5-inch screen.



PHOTOS BY MARKUS SCHREIBER/AP

Do Lee, executive vice president of Samsung, presents a Samsung Galaxy Note 4 on Wednesday during his keynote speech at an event ahead of the consumer electronic fair IFA in Berlin.



English television presenter Rachel Riley shows a virtual-reality headset called Gear VR during the Samsung event.

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WORLD

Could blood of Ebola survivors help patients?

By MARIA CHENG
The Associated Press

LONDON — As West Africa struggles to contain the biggest ever outbreak of Ebola, some experts say an unusual but simple treatment might help: the blood of survivors.

The evidence is mixed for using infection-fighting antibodies from survivors' blood for Ebola, but without any licensed drugs or vaccines for the deadly disease, some say it's worth a shot.

"This is something that's fairly simple to do," said Dr. Peter Piot, director of London's School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

'This is something that's fairly simple to do.'

Dr. Peter Piot
co-discoverer of the Ebola virus

and the co-discoverer of the Ebola virus. Using blood of survivors is one of the experimental Ebola treatments under discussion at a two-day meeting that began Thursday in Geneva. The more than 200 experts assembled by the World Health Organization are looking at issues of safety and effectiveness and considering which treatments should be prioritized for testing during the current outbreak.

There are about a half dozen medicines and vaccines in development. But none has been rigorously tested in humans but early testing of one vaccine began this

week in the United States.

Much attention has focused on the untested drug ZMapp, which was given to seven patients, two of whom died. But the limited supply is now exhausted and its developer says it will take months to make even a modest amount.

In contrast, WHO's blood network, an international group of blood regulators, noted there are thousands of survivors from past Ebola outbreaks in Africa who could be tapped as a source of survivor blood.

The group recently issued a paper on how the strategy might be used. It said blood from survivors should be considered experimental and it recommended studies be done during the outbreak.

Some scientists think antibodies in the blood of Ebola survivors could help patients infected with the deadly disease. Antibodies are produced by the body's immune system to fight off harmful things like viruses; they remain in the blood ready to fight off any future infections by the same foreign substance.

Piot said it is vital to find out if the blood treatment is effective.

"I hope this is the last Ebola outbreak where all we have is isolation, quarantine and supportive care to treat patients," he said.

Experts say blood from survivors could be collected and processed for multiple patients, or a survivor could donate blood to an individual patient. Both methods require screening the blood for diseases like HIV or malaria.



DAR YASIN/AP

Kashmiri residents struggle to withstand strong currents while wading through floodwaters while trying to move to safer places in Srinagar, India, on Thursday. At least 100 villages across the Kashmir valley were flooded by overflowing lakes and rivers, in the worst flooding in 22 years caused by heavy rains.

Bus swept away by flooded stream in Kashmir; at least 70 are missing

By ALIAZ HUSSAIN
The Associated Press

SRINAGAR, India — An overcrowded bus carrying wedding guests was swept away Thursday by a flooded stream in the Indian-held portion of Kashmir and about 70 people were missing, a state official said.

Rescuers were searching for the bus but had not been able to locate it in the gushing waters, said Shantmanu, who uses one name.

The passengers were on their way to a wedding ceremony in a village in the Rajouri region,

about 110 miles southwest of Srinagar, the main city in the Indian-held portion of Kashmir.

The bus reportedly had a capacity of only 54 people. Shantmanu said rescue efforts were being hampered by heavy rain and strong currents.

The region's wedding season has been disrupted by heavy rains and the worst floods in 22 years, and many ceremonies have been postponed.

At least 14 people have died in the past two days, and authorities closed schools and colleges and stopped train services in the area on Thursday. Meteorologists said

the heavy rains were likely to continue for another two days.

Police officer Intiyaz Hussain said the 14 victims were swept away by floodwaters or buried by mud from mountain slopes. They included a paramilitary officer whose bunker collapsed on him.

Soldiers and rescue workers used boats to move thousands of people to higher ground. At least 100 villages across the Kashmir valley were flooded by overflowing lakes and rivers, including the Jhelum river, which was up to 4 feet above its danger level, officials said.



LAI SENG SIN/AP

Malaysia Airlines planes taxi on the tarmac at Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang, Malaysia. The airline has canceled a promotion they had titled, "My Ultimate Bucket List."

'My Ultimate Bucket List' scratched as title of Malaysia Airlines promo

The Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Malaysia Airlines has scrapped the title of a competition asking people what activities and destinations are on their "bucket list," acknowledging it was inappropriate given the two deadly disasters it has suffered this year.

A bucket list is a term used by some to describe a list of adventures they want to have before they die.

The "My Ultimate Bucket List Campaign" asked customers to come up with suggestions, the best of which would win prizes including flights on the airline.

All references to the bucket list have been scrubbed from the airline's website but coaxed copies of the competition's terms and con-

ditions are still visible in Google searches.

A statement from Malaysia Airlines said the contest in Australia and New Zealand was launched online Monday, but removed the next day after public criticism.

The title was "found to be inappropriate at this point of time," it said Thursday. "The airline appreciates and respects the sentiments of the public and in no way did it intend to offend any parties."

A Malaysia Airlines jet with 239 people on board went missing March 8 while en route to Beijing and no trace of it has been found. In July, a Malaysia Airlines jet was shot down over Myanmar, killing all 298 people on board.

The airline had a good safety record before the disasters and was

once associated with high-quality service. But the twin disasters, and the airlines handling of the first one in particular, has badly damaged its brand.

The airline's majority shareholder, state investment company Khazanah, last week announced it would cut 6,000 workers at Malaysia Airlines as part of a \$1.9 billion overhaul.

Danica Weeks, whose husband was a passenger on the vanished Flight 370, told the New Zealand Herald the promotion was "atrocious" and reflected insensitivity to families of victims.

The contest was reinstated on Wednesday and will run until the end of the year but without any new title as "the focus is on the prizes," the airline said.

PACIFIC



Reflections of change for North Korea's elite

PHOTOS BY ANNA FIFIELD/The Washington Post

Above: The new apartment buildings on Changjon Street in the North Korean capital of Pyongyang are home to the most elite residents of the city. Below: At the Pyongyang Folk park, a smaller version of a monument to the Korean Workers' Party sits near life-size statues of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il.

As the rest of the country struggles for basics, Kim loyalists see improvements in the capital

By ANNA FIFIELD
The Washington Post

PYONGYANG, North Korea — As though Pyongyang did not already feel like a theme park, now the North Koreans have turned it into an actual theme park.

Already a showcase of Stalinist architecture, the capital and its monuments to communist ideology are perfectly arrayed along wide boulevards. But now a new “folk park” compresses the highlights into walking distance, featuring all the sights of North Korea in miniature form.

There's a tiny Kim Il Sung Square, complete with miniature tanks and missile transporters, and bronze statues of Kim and his son, Kim Jong Il, shrunk down to mere life-size. (The real ones, in central Pyongyang, are a towering 19 feet.)

On a sunny Sunday morning, few people were at the park. There was a solo tourist, a few organized groups of children in school uniforms, and a flock of mainly Japanese journalists who were shooed away from the small monuments when they got too close while taking pictures.

A recent visitor, in the capital for the first time since 2008, came away with the impression that Pyongyang is becoming even more like a Potemkin village.

Many more cars are on the streets — and not just the locally produced “Pyonghwa” brand or Chinese BYDs, but Lexus sport-utility vehicles and late-model BMWs and Audis — and many women are dressing more fashionably. Brightly colored, shiny high heels, often with jewels, appear to be the trend du jour.

Changjon Street, in the heart of the square, is unrecognizable from a few years

ago. Rows of round apartment towers line the street. Lit up at night, they are festooned with neon bands, giving them the appearance of giant fireworks. By day, the towers are reflected in the glittering river, making the city look “just like Dubai,” in the words of one government-appointed minder.

This is not a city on the ropes. But it also is not a city that is representative of the state of North Korea.

The situation in the cities outside the capital, and even more so in the countryside, remains extremely dire. The state does not provide anything like the kinds of rations it once did, and hunger remains widespread.

Even in Pyongyang, there are still many more signs of extreme poverty than wealth. Bent-over elderly women carry huge sacks on their backs, men with weathered faces sit on their haunches by the roadside, and North Korean children appear smaller than their Southern peers.

Foreign visitors to Pyongyang are driven along the same routes from their hotels, no matter where they are going, leading them to conclude that only certain streets are fit for foreign consumption.

The Pyongyang Folk park, which opened two years ago, is one of the many developments in the city that marks the centenary of Kim Il Sung's birth (on April 15, 1912 — the same day the Titanic sank). The park features the sacred mountain of Paekdusan in the north, the dams of the West Sea and the ancient city of Kaesong near the southern border.

“Our great leader Comrade Kim Jong Un gave instructions to build this park for our people to teach them about our history from ancient to modern,” said Kim Hyung,



a state-appointed tour guide who was selling maps of the park. “We are very proud of our North Korean nation.”

Construction still abounds today. Pyongyang airport is getting a new terminal — although foreign residents here say it's taking a long time — and new riverside parks feature basketball courts and picnic areas.

Then there are the facilities for the elite that have been added to revolutionary monuments of the standard visitor's tour.

There's the Munsu water park in Pyongyang — a huge indoor space with water slides — where the North Korean patrons all seemed to be in large groups and many were wearing what appeared to be standard-issue swimsuits.

At a fancy new equestrian center on the

outskirts of the capital, with its faux log cabin buildings and manicured tracks, the “horse trainers” were all 20-something men with crew cuts, looking as though they had come straight from their barracks. There was not a “customer” — or, for that matter, any horse poop — in sight.

It's part of what Evans Revere, a former U.S. diplomat with a long career spent dealing with North Korea, calls the “bread and circuses” approach.

“The theme parks, amusement parks, water parks, equestrian parks — these are all directed at the elite while people in the rest of North Korea are not doing well at all,” Revere said. “The regime is making every effort to present an image of economic success.”



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PACIFIC



WANG YE, XINHUA NEWS AGENCY/AP

Balloons are released into the air during a ceremony at the Museum of the War of China People's Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, in Beijing on Wednesday to mark the 69th anniversary of China's World War II victory over Japan.

China commemorates Japan's war surrender

The Associated Press

BEIJING — President Xi Jinping tended to huge bouquets and gunners fired salutes Wednesday as China commemorated Japan's World War II surrender in a campaign to remind the world of Tokyo's historical aggression amid ties between the countries.

It was China's first such celebration of a newly formalized historical commemoration day to mark Japan's surrender to U.S. forces in the Pacific — 69 years after the event. From now on, Sept. 3 will be marked annually in China as the Victory Day of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression.

It took two soldiers to carry each large bouquet into a Beijing museum commemorating

the war as solemn music played at a ceremony attended by top leaders. Inside, Xi adjusted ribbons on the bouquets, which were placed to honor Chinese soldiers who fought against Japan after it invaded China in 1937.

Afterward, he led the applause as thousands of doves were released.

China this year created three annual commemorations aimed at focusing attention on Japan's wartime aggression and atrocities, also including a Martyrs Day on Sept. 30 and a Nanjing Massacre Victims Day on Dec. 13.

Japan's top government spokesman declined to comment directly on China's commemorations, calling them a "domestic issue," but said Japan would "closely monitor China's recent activity related to history, including this case."

Japan seeks to resume whaling in the Antarctic

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Japan is seeking international support for its plans to hunt minke whales in the Antarctic Ocean next year by scaling down the whaling research program the U.N. top court rejected earlier this year, fisheries officials said Wednesday.

Whaling for research purposes is exempt from the 1986 international ban on commercial whaling, and Japan has conducted hunts in the Atlantic and Pacific on that basis. But in March, the International Court of Justice ruled the Antarctic program wasn't scientific as Japan had claimed and must stop.

Japan's Fisheries Agency is working on a revised program to be submitted to the International Whaling Commission's scientific committee around November. The agency will announce its in-

tention and basic plan at the Sept. 15-18 IWC meeting in Slovenia and will continue to finalize catch targets and other details over the next few weeks.

The new program will address the problems cited by the court, an agency official said on condition of anonymity, citing department rules. The court said Japan's Antarctic program produced little actual research and failed to explain why it needed to kill so many whales for the study.

Approval from the IWC's scientific committee isn't mandatory, but any attempt by Japan to resume whaling would be likely to face intense scrutiny over whether it complies with the court ruling.

Japan also plans to no longer hunt fin and humpback whales, after hardly catching any of those two species in the past nine years.

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COMMENTS

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FAITH

Seeking 'the highest bounty'

Zeal and questions stir as evangelist opens US crusade

By MATT SEDENSKY
The Associated Press

MIAMI — By the time the Rev. Reinhard Bonnke edges toward the stage, anticipation in the thundering arena is swelling. A crowd of thousands has been told of his decades of preaching in Africa, the tens of millions of souls he has saved, the countless healings for which he has been a conduit and the modern-day Lazarus he saw risen. The floor is vibrating, the air filled is with fog, sleek videos are flashing on massive screens.

"This is an hour of salvation," he tells the crowd. "Miami shall be saved! Florida shall be saved! America shall be saved!"

Bonnke came to the cavernous home of the Miami Heat to launch his first great American crusade, even as his name is unknown to most in this country. After what he said was a childhood call from God to preach in Africa, it took years to find legions of receptive ears on that continent. Today, German-born Bonnke, 74, is among the world's best-known faith healers, a Pentecostal minister who claims to have saved the souls of more than 72 million people in gatherings so large they've twice spurred stampedes.

On stage, he outlines no transgressions for which sinners must repent, gives no soaring evangelism and no lesson in morality. He returns repeatedly to the same simple theme, telling the faithful to turn from darkness to light, from Satan to God. When his sermon is over, he invites those ready to make a spiritual commitment to the arena's floor and a crowd amasses, arms outstretched: Some tremble and cry, some shout "hallelujah," some speak

in tongues, a few dance and one jumps up and down relentlessly.

"Jesus Christ, son of the living God: Save me now!" Bonnke screams. "Jesus! Save me now!"

Like other charismatic preachers, Bonnke has made healing a hallmark of his services, and claims those who've attended have been cured of everything from AIDS to cancer to paralysis. In the most widely-told story about him, he says he witnessed the resurrection of Daniel Ekechukwu, a Nigerian man whose wife brought his body to a church where Bonnke was appearing. Both Bonnke and the Rev. Daniel Kolenda claim, matter-of-factly, to have witnessed other resurrections, too, but they and their adherents repeatedly tell the story of Ekechukwu, saying there is so much evidence of a profound miracle that it cannot be questioned.

"It is watertight. It could not be denied. And yet people still — some people — still doubt it," Bonnke said. "Well, may God forgive them."

In Miami, Bonnke does not lead the prayers for healing. An hour after appearing, he slips off stage right with little fanfare and is replaced by Kolenda, 33, the man tapped as his successor. Kolenda serves as president at Christ for all Nations, the international ministry that Bonnke started, and has taken over the bulk of overseas crusades.

And in this night's fevered climax, Kolenda commands a litany of illnesses to be cured. Around the arena, people claim to experience healing.

Daphne Bonas, 82, said she felt a heat run through her body and is convinced her bladder cancer has been cured. Though she



ALAN DIAZ/AP

German evangelist Reinhard Bonnke stands in Miami in July. As a young minister, Bonnke said he heard the voice of God proclaim "Africa shall be saved," and for the next four decades, he made it his mission.

hadn't yet seen a doctor to verify his healing, she is convinced tests will validate a miracle.

"I'm looking forward to them telling me, 'There's nothing there and you're OK,'" she said.

June Williams, 77, came searching for a miracle too, after suffering a painful hip fracture. But she tried to walk after the healing prayers and only made it a few steps. She left in her wheelchair, and for four days afterward, was in such pain she could barely get out of bed.

"It's not that I don't believe," she said. "It's either that I'm not supposed to get better or the time has not come yet."

Belief in healings is a chief driver of the crowds to Bonnke's events, as it is for preachers including Kenneth Copeland and Benny Hinn, two men with whom he is closely linked. All three have been associated with the so-called prosperity gospel, which stresses God will reward the faithful with health and wealth, and all three have led ministries that have made them rich.

Bonnke lives near Palm Beach in an expansive, \$3 million Ritz-Carlton condo with prime ocean views. Though Bonnke's total compensation from Christ for all Nations was \$178,784 last year, it was down significantly from \$289,546 two years earlier, according to IRS filings. Overall, from 2006 through 2013, Christ for all Nations reported to the IRS more than \$105 million in donations.

Rusty Leonard, whose MinistryWatch analyzes religious groups' finances, said he is concerned by the number of affiliated organizations Christ for all Nations spends money on, and from which he says Bonnke is likely to receive additional income.

"It's a classic way to funnel money to yourself,"

Leonard said. "It tells you that they're working every angle."

Bonnke's crusades are free to attend and no offering was taken at the Miami event. Bonnke rejected questions about his lifestyle, saying he has just one apartment and no stocks or other investments.

"Sometimes, when God blessed me with something, I would feel guilty," he said. "Then I realized this was wrong, because a blessing is a blessing is a blessing."

Bonnke said Christ does not want people's money,

he wants their hearts. And so he will bring his crusade to Greensboro, N.C., next, then to Long Island and Houston, Chicago and Pittsburgh and beyond.

He expects it will mirror his African experience, that stadiums will become too small to hold growing throngs, and that they will eventually move events to open fields. His writings are filled with numbers of those he has reached, but he refuses to limit his goal as he embarks on his American tour. He said he wants to win over everyone for Christ.

"He has a claim on all people. He doesn't speak in percentages," Bonnke said. "I will aim at the moon to reach the highest bounty."

Bonnke prays during his Great Gospel Crusade in Osogbo, Nigeria, in December 2001. Bonnke said he was 10 when he heard God's calling to preach in Africa.

CHRISTINE NESBITT/AP



CHRISTINE NESBITT/AP

With his weapon slung over his chest, a policeman prays with Bonnke for the healing of his physical ailment in December 2001 during the Great Gospel Crusade in Osogbo, Nigeria.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Teen sues DMV after told to remove makeup

SC COLUMBIA — A 16-year-old in South Carolina sued the state's Department of Motor Vehicles because the agency won't let him to take a driver's license photo wearing makeup.

Chase Culppepper regularly wears makeup and either androgynous or women's clothing. During a news conference at the Statehouse in Columbia, he told reporters that being ordered by officials to remove what they called a disguise was degrading.

"I left the DMV feeling humiliated," Culppepper said. "I want to be myself and have a driver's license photo that reflects that."

LA jury convicts man of 3 serial murders

CA LOS ANGELES — A jury in Los Angeles convicted a career criminal in the serial strangling of three women in the 1980s in Los Angeles.

Jurors found Samuel Little, 74, guilty of three counts of first-degree murder. The three women were found nude below the waist and had been dragged into debris-strewn alleys.

Prosecutors linked the former boxer to the killings through evidence recovered at the scenes, which they compared with his DNA profile in a criminal database. In 2012, Los Angeles detectives found Little living in a shelter in Kentucky and arrested him.

During the trial, prosecutor Beth Silverman said outside court that Little is likely responsible for at least 40 killings since 1980. Authorities in California, Florida, Kentucky, Missouri, Louisiana, Texas, Georgia, Mississippi and Ohio are looking for possible links.

He could face life in prison. He was scheduled to be sentenced on Sept. 25.

Student gains name as squirrel whisperer

PA STATE COLLEGE — A Penn State student is gaining an Internet reputation as a "squirrel whisperer" for feeding, befriending and dressing up a furry little friend she's named "Sneezy."

Junior Mary Krupa told WIAC-TV that she's able to dress up the squirrel in party hats, or get Sneezy to hold doll-sized props, simply by feeding the animal.

Krupa and Sneezy's exploits are chronicled in a Facebook page titled "Sneezy the Penn State Squirrel."

So far, the squirrel is proving quite popular as its Facebook page has more "likes" than a page dedicated to the school's official mascot, the Nittany Lion.

School burglar leaves behind shoes, goods

UT TAYLORSVILLE — Authorities are trying to find a burglar who broke into a Taylorsville elementary school and later abandoned his shoes

THE CENSUS

\$1.1B

The amount Halliburton has agreed to pay to settle claims involving the 2010 BP Gulf of Mexico oil spill. It could be a way for the company and victims of the spill to avoid years of costly litigation. A federal judge still has to approve the settlement. That same judge has rulings pending on the extent to which parties, including Halliburton, were negligent in the deadly explosion of the Deepwater Horizon offshore oil rig.



SCOTT MASON, THE WINCHESTER (Va.) STAR/PA

All paws on deck

Brooke Jackson takes Momo, an Italian Mastiff, for a swim Monday during the All Paws on Deck Pool Party of Pooches held in Jim Barnett Park in Winchester, Va.

and some stolen equipment while fleeing from officers.

Unified Police say the break-in was reported at Vista Elementary School around 6 a.m. Monday.

Officers saw a man dressed in black who ran out of the school's south doors and behind the building.

Police chased the man but were unable to catch him.

Kite dropping leads to Missouri River search

SD PIERRE — Authorities say a report of an object that fell from the sky resulted in a Missouri River search.

Ron Bren, of the Pierre Rescue Squad, told KCCR-AM that the object the caller couldn't quite

distinguish when it fell into the marina because it was dusk ended up being a large tissue box kite.

Bren said his squad, members of the state Game, Fish and Parks Department and the Hughes County Sheriff's Office responded to the scene.

The station reported that a boat and jet ski were dispatched to the middle of the marina where

the object had landed. Bren said a sheriff's deputy wearing a life jacket swam from shore to the object.

The kite had begun dissolving in the water, but a chunk was still on the surface.

Strip club owner facing prostitution charges

SC WELLFORD — Authorities say the owner of a strip club in Spartanburg County has been charged with prostitution after dancers offered to perform sex acts for money on undercover officers.

Wellford Police Chief Jeff Bowens told local media outlets that the dancers told the undercover officers that part of the money they paid would also go to the owner of Teazers Entertainment, Timothy Treadwell, 51.

Police said they also are seeking arrest warrants against the dancers.

Military equipment from 1916 going on display

IL SPRINGFIELD — If you've ever wondered how Americans waged war 100 years ago, the Illinois State Military Museum will give you a glimpse of the past.

The Springfield museum plans to display uniforms, weapons and other equipment that was used by the Illinois National Guard during a 1916 border campaign against Pancho Villa.

The Mexican revolutionary raided New Mexico, and Maj. Gen. John Pershing launched a yearlong effort to get him. Illinois guardsmen were mobilized along the Texas border.

A press release from the National Guard says the campaign was the first time the Army used airplanes and trucks.

The items will be displayed at the military museum, starting Saturday.

Community service for Brooklyn Bridge stunt?

NY NEW YORK — A judge is suggesting a Russian tourist who climbed the Brooklyn Bridge be sentenced to community service — like cleaning a bridge.

Yaroslav Kolchin was arrested Sunday after he climbed to the top of the bridge to take pictures. He was charged with reckless endangerment, trespassing and disorderly conduct.

The Daily News reported that a judge said Friday she wasn't condoning Kolchin's actions but didn't think they were malicious.

Prosecutors are seeking a guilty plea to trespassing and a 90-day jail sentence.

Judge ShawnDya Simpson suggested "a bunch of community service" instead.

From wire reports

WEEKEND



Levine, Maroon 5
go pop on 'V'

Page 37



Mad about Madden

Get on top of what's in the latest version of the popular video game

Page 25

Nearly time to tap kegs

Munich gears up
for world-famous
Oktoberfest
celebration

Travel, Page 30



Capital cuisine

Eat, drink and
stroll through
the best Seoul
has to offer

Travel, Page 35



WEEKEND: GADGETS & CHARTS



Jae C. Hong/AP

Amiibo characters for Wii U are on display June 10 at the Nintendo booth during the Electronic Entertainment Expo in Los Angeles. Pikachu and Link will be among the first characters coming to "amiibo," the upcoming toys-meet-game franchise set for release this year.

Nintendo launching 'amiibo'

By DERRIK J. LANG
The Associated Press

Pikachu and Link will be among the first characters coming to "amiibo."

Nintendo announced Aug. 29 that 12 characters will initially be part of its upcoming toy-game franchise set for release this year. In addition to the "Pokemon" and "Legend of Zelda" leading men, the starting line-up will include Mario, Princess Peach, Yoshi, Donkey Kong, Samus Aran, Kirby, Fox McCloud, Marth, the "Wii Fit" Trainer and the Villager from "Animal Crossing."

The figures in the "amiibo" toy-game line will each cost \$12.99 and work in tandem with several of the Japanese gaming giant's upcoming titles, beginning with "Super Smash Bros."

"We wanted to make sure that the breadth of characters we had for the initial 'amiibo' lineup supported the fan favorites, as well as showcase the variety of people Nintendo speaks to — from kids to adults," Nintendo of America President Reggie Fils-Aime said. "For example, you've got a character like Marth from the 'Fire Emblem' series. We thought exposing Marth to a wider collection of consumers through 'amiibo' made a ton of sense, but, of course, we had to have Mario, Princess Peach and Donkey Kong in that initial lineup, as well."

Similar to Activision's "Skylanders" and "Disney Infinity," the

characters' virtual histories will be stored on the plastic figures and transmitted through the Wii U GamePad, the controller for the Wii U console that features a touchscreen and near field communication (NFC) capabilities. Unlike the Activision Blizzard Inc. and Walt Disney Co. franchises, the "amiibo" figures will work with several games from different genres and won't be required to play the games.

"Our vision is to have these 'amiibo' figures be your playable friends that allow you to enhance the overall experience," said Fils-Aime. "It's a different approach from Activision and Disney, which is more to unlock something in the game. You're going to want to have your 'amiibo' figure because it's going to allow you to enhance your skills, upgrade your character and take the experience over to a friend's house."

Nintendo first unveiled "amiibo" at the Electronic Entertainment Expo in June. The company plans to release more figures over the next year and include "amiibo" functionality in future games, as well as compatibility with its handheld Nintendo 3DS system.

The Kyoto, Japan-based company is hoping the figurines will help boost its bottom line and sales of its beleaguered Wii U console. Wii U sales trail behind the PlayStation 4 and Xbox One consoles from rivals Sony Corp. and Microsoft Corp.

ON THE COVER: Small gameplay tweaks make "Madden NFL 15" a must-have for fans of the video game, and of football.

EA Sports

GADGET WATCH

ZVOX gives television great 3-D sound

By GREGG ELLMAN

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

All-in-one best describes the ZVOX SoundBase 320.

The 24-inch speaker system produces 3-D sound and the right amount of bass without external speakers, subwoofer or messy wires to connect them. The TV can sit on top of the 23.7-by-11.5-by-3.5-inch speaker for a nice clean look.

According to the ZVOX website, the SoundBase 320 works best with 32- to 47-inch TVs. The site also lists other models for TVs ranging from 22 to 70 inches.

The speaker has a fabric-covered front grill so the sound can pass through, and the body has a wood finish.

The 3-D sound is produced by three 2-inch speakers and a 5.25-inch subwoofer.

Setting it up is pretty simple; just choose between the RCA analog, optical or the coaxial digital inputs.

The speaker is perfect for a secondary family room or larger bedroom.

There's also a 3.5mm port on the front for connecting other media sources and a wireless remote controls the volume and some sound settings.

Online: zvoxaudio.com; \$199

The Soundfreak Pocket Kick is another great-sounding and space-saving speaker with its wireless (Bluetooth 4.0) feature and pocket-sized design.

Measuring just 2.5 x 5.9 x 1.2 inches with rounded edges, it fits nicely in your pocket, and when you take it out and fire it up, the big sound kicks in.

I'm a big fan of portable sound, and this speaker undeniably proves that bigger isn't always better.

The audio is produced from a pair of speaker drivers and a passive bass radiator inside a metal grill.

For those who still don't have a Bluetooth-enabled device, there's a 3.5mm line-in port.

A built-in microphone allows for hands-free calling, and a built-in rechargeable battery provides up to 10 hours (can vary depending on volume levels) of use before a microUSB charge is needed. A wrist lanyard is also included. Online: soundfreak.com; \$99, available in black, gold and platinum

The Exceria 1000x compact flash cards are the latest from Toshiba, which have a maximum read speed of 150MB/s and maximum write speed of 120MB/s.

This allows the cards to maintain the faster



ZVOX/MCT

The ZVOX SoundBase 320 is small, but it can fill a room with rich, satisfying 3-D sound.

writing speeds of today's high-end digital SLR cameras, and then download the images to your computer with blazing speed.

I hit the shutter on a 14 frame-per-second camera, and the card had no problem keeping up with the still images. It did the same with high-definition video.

You also get a free one-year copy of Toshiba's data recovery software, along with a five-year standard limited warranty. The warranty does not cover your images: backup, backup, backup.

Online: Toshiba.com/us; available in 32GB (\$129.99), 64GB (\$249.99) and 128GB (\$499.99)



The Airframe

Plus from Kenu is one of those products you don't think you'll need until you have it. It holds many of today's bigger smartphones within reach, mounted to the car's air vents.

The expandable bracket has rubber holders on the top, bottom and sides to put a firm grip on your device. It can hold devices with a screen size up to 6 inches, measured diagonally.

Once mounted with the rubber jaw grabbing on to the vent, the Airframe Plus can turn from landscape to portrait viewing positions just by turning it.

Online: Kenu.com, \$29.99

ITUNES MUSIC

Top 10 songs on the iTunes Store for September 3:

- "Shake It Off," Taylor Swift
- "All About That Bass," Meghan Trainor
- "Bang Bang — Single," Jessie J, Ariana Grande & Nicki Minaj
- "La La La," Pentatonix
- "Break Free (featuring Zedd)," Ariana Grande
- "Maps," Maroon 5
- "Tides — Single," Jack & Jack
- "Jackie and Wilson," Hozier
- "Rather Be (featuring Jess Glynne)," Clean Bandit
- "Stay With Me," Sam Smith

— Compiled by MCT

SPOTIFY MUSIC

The top streamed tracks on Spotify from Aug. 25-31:

- "All About That Bass," Meghan Trainor
- "Break Free," Ariana Grande
- "Stay With Me," Sam Smith
- "Bang Bang — Single," Jessie J, Ariana Grande & Nicki Minaj
- "Chandelier," Sia
- "Black Widow," Iggy Azalea
- "Rude," MAGIC!
- "Anaconda," Nicki Minaj
- "Problem," Ariana Grande
- "Fancy," Iggy Azalea

— Compiled by The Associated Press

ITUNES MOVIES

Top 10 movies downloaded from the iTunes Store for September 3:

- "Draft Day"
- "Blended"
- "Godzilla"
- "The Other Woman"
- "The Amazing Spider-Man 2"
- "Divergent"
- "Neighbors"
- "Labor Day"
- "The Fault in Our Stars (Extended)"
- "Belle"



— Compiled by MCT

VIDEO GAMES

Game Informer ranks the Top 10 games for September:

- "Diablo III: Ultimate Evil Edition," PS4, Xbox One
- "The Walking Dead Season 2 Episode 5 — No Going Back," PS3, 360, PC, Vita, iOS
- "The Last of Us: Remastered," PS4
- "Metro Redux," PS4, Xbox One, PC
- "Divinity: Original Sin," PC
- "Professor Layton vs. Phoenix Wright: Ace Attorney," 3DS
- "Madden NFL 15," PS4, Xbox One, PS3, 360
- "Infamous: First Light," PS4
- "Lichdom: Battlemage," PC
- "Danganronpa 2: Goodbye Despair," Vita

— Compiled by MCT

APPS

Top 5 new paid apps for September 3:

ANDROID

- Five Nights at Freddy's
- Afterlight
- Impossible
- ALONE ...
- Time Tangle — Adventure Time

Top 5 paid apps for September 3:

APPLE

- Heads Up!
- Castle of Illusion Starring Mickey Mouse
- Minecraft — Pocket Edition
- Afterlight
- Sleep Cycle alarm clock

— Compiled by MCT

WEEKEND

CHECK IT OUT

Events, entertainment and other ways to fill your free time



MICHEL SPINGLER/AP

Prince is releasing not one, not two, but three albums in coming months.

Prince gives tastes of album goodness to come

Prince is back, and in a big way. Gone are the days where His Badness battled record label Warner Bros. for the rights to his songs, when he traded his name for an unpronounceable symbol.

Last week, Prince debuted "Clouds" from his upcoming solo album, "Art Official Age," his first since 2010.

Now he's followed it up with "U Know," also from "Art Official Age," and "Whitecaps," his first offering from "PLECTRUM-ELECTRUM," a separate project with

3RDEYEGIRL. Both albums are set to drop Sept. 30.

As if that weren't enough Prince for one fall season, Warner Bros. is re-releasing a deluxe edition of Prince's "Purple Rain" album, which will include additional tracks, in November.

Long may The Purple One reign.

• Listen to "U Know" and "Whitecaps" at tinyurl.com/mbk8c9o.

• Get a taste of "Clouds" at tinyurl.com/nlx8hne.

2

Maroon 5, Crows return

What's only slightly more fun than listening to Maroon 5 and the Counting Crows? Making fun of the bands' frontmen, Adams Levine and Duritz. As music reviewer Allison Stewart puts it, "This week, their bands dropped new albums that neatly encapsulate everything you might love or hate about either group."

• Read more about the new albums on Page 37.

3

Cookie, Oliver collaborate

Late-night comedians aren't known for their family-friendly fare — and that's kind of the point. But "Last Week Tonight" host John Oliver recently teamed

with every kid's favorite cookie fanatic — Cookie Monster of "Sesame Street" — for some wordplay and language lessons appropriate for all ages. Keep a close eye on your tie, John.

• See it at tinyurl.com/mofhb3e.



screenshot from Zap2it.com

4

Hanks app delivers nostalgia

Do you want to make your new iPad Air sound like a clackety typewriter from a bygone era? You're in luck. Actor Tom Hanks has developed an iPad app called "Hanx Writer," which replicates the sounds and sights of using a manual typewriter. Oddly enough, you can email your "typed" missives as well. Since its release last month, the free app has become hugely popular.

• Watch TechCrunch's review of Hanx Writer at tinyurl.com/n85ulpq.

WEEKEND: ENTERTAINMENT



"Kim Kardashian: Hollywood" lets you follow the star on a red-carpet adventure. Users of the free app create their own celebrity and can customize their look with hundreds of style options.

Tapping their appeal

Celebs, game creators cash in on Hollywood-based apps

By PARESH DAVE
Los Angeles Times

In the latest video game sensation, the player encounters an attractive stranger at a bar and must make a difficult choice: flirt or network. The goal: climb the Hollywood food chain and transform from a starving no-name to a rich-and-famous A-lister.

The game, based on the life of Kim Kardashian West, has turned into a surprise summer hit, stirring buzz in Hollywood and raising expectations about possible payoffs from injecting stars, blockbusters and hit series into video games, particularly those developed for smartphones and tablets.

Launched less than two months ago, "Kim Kardashian: Hollywood" is already among the top five moneymakers in the iPhone app store and top 10 in the Google Play store, according to tracking firm App Annie. It's on pace to gross \$200 million by next summer, according to one estimate, which would place it among the top mobile game apps.

Blockbuster Hollywood TV shows and movies have long inspired console or computer video games. But Kardashian's success is opening a new front for mobile games.

"In Hollywood, when they are losing the predictability of things like the DVD business, there's an unparalleled opportunity to get into the gaming business," said Nicolo de Masi, chief executive of Glu Games Inc., which made the Kardashian game app.

Under scoring the shift, market research firm IDC estimates

U.S. spending on video games could rise to \$30 billion by 2020, matching the flat-lining spending on movies.

"It's inexorable that more entertainment-oriented companies are going to have to develop transmedia," IDC gaming analyst Lewis Ward said, referring to the industry's buzzword for movie-gaming collaborations.

Top Hollywood-based games "The Hobbit: Kingdoms of Middle-earth" and "The Simpsons: Tapped Out" have each made more than \$100 million in a year. The top-grossing overall mobile game, "Candy Crush Saga," booked nearly \$1.5 billion in sales in 2013 and is on pace to exceed that this year.

"Kardashian" is the first breakout app based on an individual, though apps inspired by public figures including Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt and singer Jennifer Lopez saw limited success when smartphone ownership wasn't as widespread.

Smartphones and tablets have made it as simple as a tap on a screen for anyone to become a "gamer." There are no bulky consoles, confusing controllers or upfront costs to purchase a game.

That might be one reason why "Kardashian" and mobile app games are gaining popularity: Ease of use is drawing new people to gaming, including women. Mobile analytics and advertising firm Flurry recently found that women spent 35 percent more time than men in mobile games and made 31 percent more in-app purchases.

De Masi told analysts that Kardashian's game probably



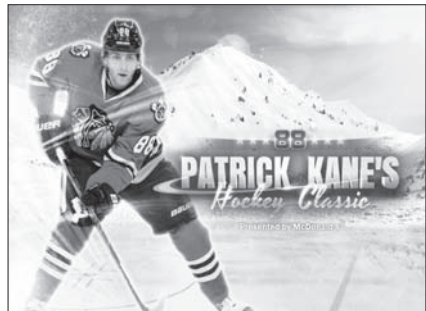
Lead Gandalf, Bilbo, Legolas and more in a battle to defeat the forces of evil in "The Hobbit: Kingdoms of Middle-earth."

turned many of her social media fans, who he said skew wealthy and young, into "first-time gamers."

In "Kardashian," players must lead their character through shopping malls, photo shoots, dating and other celebrity escapades. Users tap on a door, for example, to enter a bar. There, they decide whether to flirt or network with a fellow patron. Such decisions send cash and rewards into the air, and the user taps on them to collect.

The key is balancing expenses — clothes and bus trips — with income from the tasks. Along the way, there are reminders like, "Getting new clothing, cars, and homes can increase your star power for love and work."

Kardashian West, whose family stars on the reality TV show "Keeping Up with the Kardashians," airing in more than 100



Chicago Blackhawks and Team USA hockey star Patrick Kane invites you to take a shot at glory in Patrick Kane's Hockey Classic.



Homer accidentally causes a meltdown that wipes out Springfield in "The Simpsons: Tapped Out." It's up to players to rebuild the town.

countries, regularly appears in the game. It's free to play, but real money buys more glamorous virtual clothing and energy boosts. Pop-up ads for other games also generate revenue.

"Kardashian" evolved from a game app franchise called "Stardom," which had been generating consistent revenue for San Francisco-based Glu. But it wasn't soaring. De Masi sought out Kardashian to add cachet, and now they chat via email daily about how to improve and update the game. Analysts expect Glu to capitalize on its success with sequels that feature more of the large Kardashian clan.

During a trip to Los Angeles last year, De Masi also struck deals with studios. Glu plans to make games based on the Terminator for Skydance Productions and James Bond for EON Productions and MGM Interactive, which invested in Glu. Games for "RoboCop" from MGM and for "Hercules" from Paramount Pictures and MGM have already launched.

Merging a solid game with global star power is catching on as studios and talent agencies increasingly partner with app makers searching for the next viral hit.

Creative Artists Agency, for example, invested in game publisher Moonshark, a three-person startup that now operates out of the talent agency's Century City headquarters.

With CAA's help, Moonshark reached a deal with a Chicago Blackhawks star to create the mobile game "Patrick Kane's

Hockey Classic." Using Kane's name attracts new users, and it's cheaper to split profits with him than to market the game through advertising, said Andrew Chan, Moonshark's chief executive.

Apps benefit stars by allowing them to make money off their online followers without the hassle of negotiating Twitter or Facebook endorsement deals. The money can be significant, said Cowen & Co. analyst Doug Creutz. He estimated that Kardashian, 33, receives 50 percent of her game's profit, meaning the app could pay her more than the \$28 million a year that Forbes estimates she earns from other sources.

The larger challenge for studios is making game apps a bigger chunk of their profits. Of the six major studios, only Walt Disney Co. details the finances of its games-related division. That unit accounted for 2 percent of Disney's \$12.47 billion in revenue in the most recent completed quarter, the company said last week. But the interactive division has struggled together four straight quarters of profitability, with mobile games "Tsum Tsum" and "Frozen Free Fall" providing a "nice uplift" in the most recent quarter, according to Disney.

"Movies and DVDs and TV syndication are temporal events," said Chris Petrovic, head of corporate development at mobile game developer Kabam Inc. Warner Bros. is an investor in the company. "Games are a persistent, connective tissue. It's clear the industry is finding success and taking their entire catalog to market to find homes for them."

WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES

'Madden 15' best game in series in years

Latest installment delivers on defense, offers improved gameplay

By MICHAEL DARNELL
Stars and Stripes

Madden and I go way back. Far enough so that my long-suffering Buffalo Bills were once a team I was able to choose and still have a reasonable expectation of victory.

Just like Buffalo, Madden has seen its share of ups and downs throughout its 26-year run, but unlike the hapless Bills, this year's installment has shown great signs of improvement over its recent lackluster history.

"Madden NFL 15" is the second game in the series to hit the most recent console generation, and that shows in the presentation. The player models are crafted down to the most minute detail. Animations continue to improve, especially in the interaction between the linemen on plays.

The game is still held back a bit graphically by concurrent development on the previous generation of consoles, but not to the point where it is a hindrance to the game. Don't expect to be blown away by the visuals, and you'll likely have no complaints with how it looks.

The real improvements this year are in the small gameplay tweaks that make "Madden 15" feel a bit more exciting to play on both sides of the ball.

The most immediate improvement is in the passing game. Developer EA Sports has finally nailed down the balance in the passing game. Gone are the linebackers who can leap eight feet in the air to intercept a lob, and gone are the days in which crossing



Overall grade: **B+**

routes were nearly unstoppable.

Defenders, even on lower difficulty settings, play more like actual football players. They make more plays on the ball, meaning that the ridiculous amount of yards you could rack up in the past against the AI are gone. Well, at least with E.J. Manuel as the quarterback. I left many games with stats similar to Manuel's actual production, which stings a bit as a fan, but as a gamer I can respect the reflection of real life. It's also worth noting that sidelines seem to draw receivers out of bounds, making seam and out routes a bit more difficult to pull off.

The other major gameplay improvement is on the other side of the ball. Defenders now have a cone of vision that lets players choose between a safe tackle that will likely never result in a jarred ball, or a big hit stick tackle that has a good chance of missing. This type of system has been attempted before, but it actually works this time around.

Defensive linemen also get some improvements, most notably in a better disengagement mechanic that makes a run up the middle a more risky play choice than in the past. There are still some problems with hit detection on the line, which is slightly disappointing. Sometimes linemen will still seem to be magnetized to one other, independent of player input. Even still, the minor tweaks to the defensive side of the ball make it actually enjoyable to play this year, a first since the introduction of the hit stick.

The wonky hit detection is even more noticeable in the run game, though. Rushing in some Madden installments was nearly unstoppable. It's more accurate than ever in "Madden 15," with fewer long runs and more small pickups, but it comes at a price.

The slightest touch from a defensive lineman will often send even top-tier backs spiraling out of control, and linebackers gain super speed on tackles past the line. You will

very often find yourself getting tackled from a linebacker that was way too far away to reasonably make the play. Those are small quibbles, though, and it's done in the interest in keeping C-listers from performing like Adrian Peterson in his prime.

Madden has fluctuated on its gameplay modes in the past, but it's fair to say that "Madden 15" doesn't have that problem. From the normal franchise mode to the Madden Ultimate Team to the coaches and owner modes to the improved superstar mode, "Madden 15" is easily one of



the most packed installments in terms of ways to play.

The Madden Ultimate Team is still geared too heavily toward encouraging players to plunk down real-world money for points to unlock player packs, but patient gamers can build a competitive team without spending a dime.

Your team will start with players who will likely never see a real snap in the NFL this year, but by passing milestones and challenges, coins are unlocked that allow you to purchase new packs containing better players. The best stuff still costs an absurd amount of coins, or, of course, points purchased with money. I felt as if the grind to get actual starters was too slow and abandoned the mode for more traditional games.

The create-a-player franchise mode — where you take a player from rookie to NFL superstar — is where I spent most of my offline gaming time. Building a player from scrub to MVP is always fun, and the tweets from NFL reporters (including appropriately negative ones from Skip Bayless) add to the fantasy of being an NFL star.

Overall, "Madden 15" is easily the best game in the series in the past four or five years. It's still rough in some spots, and the decision to continue to make the game about the spectacle of football rather than the game itself gets in the way — especially with things like this year's unskipable introduction — but the gameplay holds up. The small tweaks to the gameplay are welcome, and the nearly endless modes of play will keep fans busy until the inevitable "Madden 16."

Bottom line: B+ "Madden 15" is better than it has been for years, and any fan not already playing will likely want to pick this up.

Platforms: PS4 (reviewed), Xbox One, PS3, Xbox 360
Online: easports.com/madden-nfl

With improved player emotion and contextual awareness, "Madden NFL 15" mimics the feeling of watching a football game on television.

Screenshots by Michael Darnell/Stars and Stripes



Many more staff-written game reviews at stripes.com/military-life

WEEKEND: ENTERTAINMENT

By ANN HORNBADY
The Washington Post

“What a wonderful time for women on television,” Julianna Margulies said Aug. 25, upon accepting her latest Emmy, for her performance in the dramatic series “The Good Wife.”

And what a strange time for women on film — especially this summer, when the contradictions of progress were evident in full force. I’ve taken to calling it the “B.A. but...” effect.

COMMENTARY in this instance, stands

for Badass, a word frowned upon not only by editors of discerning taste and discretion, but also impressionable readers. But how better to say what’s been one of the cardinal trends of this summer? From the #yesallwomen trend that took hold on Twitter in May to Mo’Né Davis’s scorching fastball and last month’s BeyMAs, women claimed a new pride of place in the culture over the past few months, a phenomenon that was mirrored with encouraging symbolic and economic force at the movies.

First, Angelina Jolie brought her A-game and ice-sculpture cheekbones to “Maleficent,” a revisionist take on “Sleeping Beauty” in which women save each other rather than waiting around for a prince. The sisterhood-is-powerful fairy tale became an early summer blockbuster, earning more than \$700 million worldwide.

In short order, “Maleficent” was followed by “The Fault in Our Stars,” “Tammy” and “Lucy” — all dramatically different in tone, genre and audience but each a big success in its own right and each led by a female character who defied retrograde notions of what it means to act like a woman. Just as Jolie’s evil enchantress harbored a maternally incorrect loathing of kids, Shailene Woodley’s Hazel, the feisty heroine of “The Fault in Our Stars,” wasn’t a typical love-sick teenager. For one thing, she really was sick, bravely enduring a childhood cancer diagnosis. Smart, sharp-witted, adamantly romantic, Hazel does fall in love in the course of the weepie romance, but it’s on her own self-aware, headstrong terms.

Perhaps the most startling portraits of female power came in the form of “Tammy” and “Lucy,” a one-two punch starring Melissa McCarthy as a foul-mouthed, dimwitted force of nature and Scarlett Johansson as a cool, preternaturally sharp-witted force of nature, respectively. Neither Tammy nor Lucy is a heroine we would necessarily want our daughters to emulate. But their I-don’t-give-a-fig compartment, their willingness to flout traditional feminine norms, their steadfast refusal to be talked to, was viscerally bracing nonetheless.

In many ways, this summer was simply the most full-blown fulfillment of a promise made back in 2010, when an unknown actress named Jennifer Lawrence astonished audiences with her steely portrayal of a girl trying

Scarlett Johansson in “Lucy”
UNIVERSAL PICTURES/AP

Melissa McCarthy in “Tammy”
WARNER BROS. PICTURES/AP



Mixed message Despite kicking butt and taking names, women still stereotyped in summer movies

to save her rural Ozarks family in “Winter’s Bone.” That was the same year that gave us Chloe Grace Moretz’s destructive derisive Hit Girl in the action flick “Kick-Ass.” It didn’t take long for “Brave” and Lawrence’s star vehicle, “The Hunger Games,” to come tumbling triumphantly after.

Dear reader, do you detect a pattern? As bracing as these portraits of female potency and swagger are, they seem strangely restrained, relegated to the realms of animated fables, retold fairy tales or action-driven fantasy. There’s no question that with “Maleficent” and “The Fault in Our Stars,” women and girls helped save Hollywood’s bacon this summer. But the industry has repaid that kindness by giving them only a very narrow range of permissibly powerful characters — a spectrum roughly defined by the sexy, cyborg-like title character of “Lucy” on one end and the outrageous, slapstick overstatement of “Tammy” on the other.

The mixed message: You can be B.A. but... You need to be young, blessed with sci-fi superpowers or otherwise imaginary. You can be faster and smarter and generally better than boys, but you’ll have to lose



Mature, sophisticated roles for women are mostly offered on the small screen, in shows such as, from top, “The Good Wife,” starring Julianna Margulies, “Homeland,” starring Claire Danes, and “Scandal,” starring Kerry Washington.

something in the bargain, preferably a cherished family member — or even the boy himself. Under no circumstances are you to grow into a recognizable adult with a job, career, family or other signifier of functional, if flawed, adulthood.

Those prizes, apparently, are reserved for TV: Just a cursory glance at Margulies’s fellow Emmy winners and nominees revealed an enviable rich environment for awesome, admirable, sometimes subversively antisocial women who also happen to be recognizable adults, from Margulies in “The Good Wife” to Robin Wright in “House of Cards,” Claire Danes in “Homeland” and Kerry Washington in “Scandal.”

We see precious few of these reality-rooted characters in the movies, a gap that was brought home with force last month with the passing of Lauren Bacall — who, when it comes to B.A.’s, provided a particularly stylish tutorial. Revisiting her knowing, husky-voiced turn in “I Have and Have Not,” her maturity and self-assurance were made all the more breathtaking by the fact that when she made that movie, she was only 19. Luckily for her, she had come under the tutelage

of the great director Howard Hawks, who had already helped guide Rosalind Russell and Katharine Hepburn into careers that allowed them to be tough, no-nonsense but also sophisticated women.

Today, a young Bacall or Russell or Hepburn would no doubt be shocked that the feminist progress their characters embodied and espoused had been so strangely channeled through popular culture.

The lack of sophisticated, mature roles for women can surely be blamed on the market: Hollywood is still stuck in the rut of making movies for and about young people, ignoring the fact that the girls who made “Twilight” and “The Fault in Our Stars” big hits often went with their mothers (who themselves helped make “Mamma Mia!” and “Sex in the City” big hits). But the market excuse also reflects a tautology having to do with structural sexism, a notoriously wimpy, risk-averse business model and a collective failure of imagination — the wash, rinse, repeat cycle of franchise properties and their endless sequels, reboots and spinoffs.

Thus, when the creakily overcompensating “Expendables 3” fails to perform at the box office, its parent studio doesn’t reconsider its strategy, look at the summer’s winners and losers, and dare to try something new. It announces that the flaccid franchise will launch a spinoff called — I kid you not — “The Expendables,” due out in 2015.

It doesn’t take a lot of huevos to say: That’s not B.A., that’s just plain pathetic. It might be a wonderful time for women on TV, but as far as movies go, we still have to take more on our share of woe with the wonder.

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MOVIE MAGIC

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Begin Again(R) - Sat & Sun 15:30
Dawn of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) - Sat & Sun 15:30
Guardians of the Galaxy (PG-13)
Thur 15:30, 18:00, Fri 15:30, 18:00, 22:30, Sat 13:30, 15:45, 18:00, 22:30, Sun 13:30, 15:45, 18:00, Mon - Wed 16:00, 18:15
If I Stay (PG-13) - Thur & Fri 16:00, Sat & Sun 13:30, Mon - Wed 16:00
The Expendables 3 (PG-13) - Sun 13:30
Hercules (PG-13) - Sat & Sun 13:30
How to train your Dragon 2 (PG) - Sat 13:30
Lucy (PG-13) - Thur - Sun 17:00
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (PG-13) - Sat & Sun 15:00

BROADWAY, 50 BARGAIN TUESDAY
ALL shows \$5 (6 per person)
Not on Holidays / Overlength & 3.0D price increase I

Kino = Movie - Movie = Kino

WEEKEND

Europe

THE EUROPE EXPERIENCE



Courtesy of riotcommunications.com

Care to have a chat with Peter Pan? The well known storybook figure is one of 35 statues in London and Manchester, England, that have been brought to life with voices supplied by English actors. Visitors swipe their cell phones on a nearby tag and get an instant call from the character depicted, often telling a historical tidbit.

Do this: Have a chat with English statues

For years they have stood stoically and mute as the English public passed them by.

Now, thanks to a project by "public interventions" company Sing London, 35 statues in London and Manchester, England, have found their voices.

The company has commissioned some of the nation's most celebrated writers and actors to put words into the mouths of the statues, which include two cats and a goat.

Pass a Talking Statue, swipe your cell phone on a nearby tag and your phone rings. And it's Queen Victoria ... or Peter Pan ... or Abe Lincoln ... or Sherlock Holmes.

With monologues ranging from the comic (Samuel Johnson's cat, Hodge) to the tragic (the Unknown Soldier at Paddington Station), the project offers passers-by a new way to explore the legacies of the renowned characters. "Look up!" says Isaac Newton outside the British Library. "Most of the things you're doing now, like listening to me on your mobile phone, can only be done because of my discoveries."

Find out who's talking where with a map of London and Manchester's talking statues at talkingstatues.co.uk.



TOP TRAVEL PICKS

Lantern festival in Italy

Florence celebrates the birth of the Virgin Mary on Sunday with the Festa della Rificolona, or festival of paper lanterns. While the religious component of the fest is no longer celebrated as fervently as it once was, the annual pilgrimage into the city once made by the region's peasants and farmers left a distinct mark on the celebrations.

Since country dwellers, traveling from afar, often set off for Florence before dawn, they would carry paper lanterns lit with candles to guide their way. Showing up in town in their modest best dress, they were often mocked and laughed at by the city dwellers, and the children would attempt to hit the lanterns with pea shooters and spitballs.

As the country folk didn't make the long journey into town empty-handed, the tradition of holding a market followed upon their heels. Today, this takes the form of an organic-produce fair, which will take place Saturday and Sunday.

The procession itself, guided by a cardinal, begins at 8 p.m. Sunday from the Piazza Santa Felicità and moves to the Piazza SS. Annunziata, passing through Piazza della Signoria en route. There's no charge to enter the area, and paper lanterns will be



Karen Bradbury

See the Europe Travel blog at stripes.com/travel/europe-travel

available for purchase. To learn more about the traditions behind the Rificolona, see tinyurl.com/qasxbs3.

Tanks in Mons

To this day, the city of Mons, Belgium, celebrates its 1944 liberation by the 83rd Reconnaissance Battalion of the 3rd U.S. Armored Division with a peaceful gathering of armored vehicles. This weekend, an exceptional edition of Tanks in Town will commemorate the 70th anniversary of this date in history.

The event begins Saturday at 8 a.m. with the opening of a period military camp and an international flea market for militaria along the route de Wallonie. Find

also an expo of armored vehicles and tank rides offered in the Bois Brûlé (15 euros, or about \$19.80; space is limited). At 3 p.m., the nearby Grand Large will serve as a launch pad for amphibious vehicles.

On Sunday, columns of light wheeled and armored vehicles will set forth along various circuits, converging upon the nearby town of Mesvin around noon. At 2:30 p.m., a re-enactment of an attack on a German position and an overflight by a Piper Cub will be staged. The population of Mesvin will welcome event participants along the "voie Americaine" at 3:30 p.m. The participating vehicles will have amassed back at the Grand Place of Mons by around 5 p.m.

Entry to the site of Saturday's festivities costs 6 euros for adults and is free for those under 12. Learn more at tanksintown.be.

Dutch flower parades

As northern Europe transitions into autumn, the Dutch have a nice way of bidding farewell to the season of nature in bloom. Over the next couple of weekends, flower parades, known as *bloemencorso*, will bring color and festivities to their respective communities.

Zundert, a village between Breda and Antwerp close to the

Belgian border, is the location of the Corso Zundert on Sunday afternoon. The parade kicks off at 1:30 p.m. and ends around 6 p.m. On Monday, the floats decorated in dahlias remain in town in a static display.

Entry to the parade costs 10 euros (\$13.20); children under 13 enter for free. Adult entry tickets to the display of floats cost 4 euros; children under 13 get in free. Grandstand seating at the parade is available for an additional 10 euros to 30 euros. Learn more at corsozundert.nl.

Lichtenvoorde's parade, the largest of its kind, begins at 2 p.m. on Sept. 14. The floats can

be viewed from noon until 10 p.m. the following day. Parade entry costs 7 euros per adult; free for those under age 16. It's 2.50 euros to enter the exhibition area to see the floats the next day. Get more information at bloemencorso.com.

Valkenswaard's parade, also taking place Sept. 14, consists of 14 dahlia-bedecked floats built and decorated by residents of the city's neighborhoods. The parade starts at the town's marketplace at 2 p.m. and completes a circular route twice. Adult tickets cost 8 euros; children up to the age of 12 enter for free. Find details at bloemencorso-valkenswaard.nl.



Courtesy of corsozundert.nl

All kinds of creatures made of flowers come out in the village of Zundert, Netherlands, when it hosts its flower parade.



Looking for even more to do? For additional events, concerts and activities, go to stripes.com/military-life

WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Europe

A hedonist's haven

Lake Garda resort town excels at pampering



PHOTOS BY NANCY MONTGOMERY/Stars and Stripes

Above: Wisteria covers several old stone buildings in Sirmione at the southern edge of Lake Garda in Italy. **Below:** Lake Garda laps at the Sirmione shore decorated by old stone walls and turrets.

By NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

Eat. Drink. Sun. Swim. Stroll. Repeat. Sirmione, the peninsular little town on Italy's Lake Garda's southern edge, is a place to indulge your inner hedonist.

It's all about leisure, long, alfresco lunches amid wisteria-covered buildings and masses of hydrangeas. It's about watching the swans swim past on a warm sunny day, taking a dip yourself, then having to decide only whether to order the hazelnut gelato or the lemon.

The town's historic center, reached across a bridge over a moat that was part of a 13th-century fortress, is in summer devoted to tourists, with its narrow cobbled streets filled with tourist shops, restaurants and hotels.

Yet nearly everywhere you glance, a lovely view presents itself.

The little center is punctuated with small parks abloom with flowers, herbs and olive trees, including one named for Maria Callas. Among the most revered opera stars of the 20th century,

she lived in a pretty yellow house in town with her first husband before she met Aristotle Onassis, who supposedly broke her heart when he abandoned her to marry Jacqueline Kennedy.

And, if the walk through town raises a sweat, just minutes away the cool, clear water of Italy's largest lake awaits.

What's not to like? For some, no doubt, that would be the throngs of fellow tourists.

Sirmione welcomes its tourists. All the menus are polyglot, likewise the shop personnel, who often speak English and German as well as Italian.

But the truth is, during the summer, the narrow streets can become a bit claustrophobic.

According to the town's tourist website, Sirmione has always attracted hordes of visitors, some more civilized than others. "Be they Romans or Cimbrians, Goths or Avars, Scaligers or Venetians, all were touched by its fabulous charm," the website says.

Tourism sites generally list only three things to do in Sirmione. You can look at the ruins of the fortress, the Rocca Scaligera; you can check out the thermal spa; or you can visit the Catullus Villa and Grotto, the ruins of a Roman villa started near the end of the first century B.C. for a wealthy Veronese family.

There are also a couple of churches you can visit that have



NOCA AMI-RAW/Stars and Stripes

frescoes on the walls.

All of these are pleasant; none is taxing in the least.

It is possible, of course, to expend a good deal of energy in Sirmione. My brother, Brian, and his son, Ben, a duo who are forever hiking and engaged in other outdoors sports, spent hours during a June visit on long swims and cannonball contests.

The rest of us watched from shore, drinking our Aperol spritzes.

montgomery.nancy@stars.com

ON THE QT

DIRECTIONS

Sirmione, on the southern end of Lake Garda, is an hour from Vicenza. Take Autostrada 4 to the Sirmione exit and follow Route SP13 into town. Continue on Via XXV Aprile, then Viale Marconi through town to a parking lot at the old town wall. Only those on business or staying at a hotel can drive in the old town.

TIMES

Go in the warm months if you like to swim. Otherwise, autumn and spring are also lovely and less crowded than in summer.

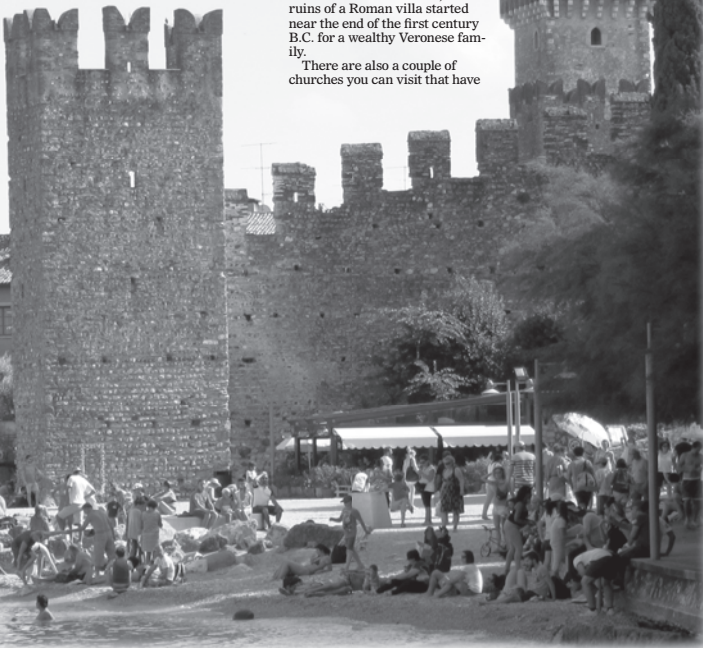
FOOD

There are many, many restaurants offering pasta, pizza, fish and more, and seemingly infinite gelato stands.

INFORMATION

Visit sirmione.com.

— Nancy Montgomery

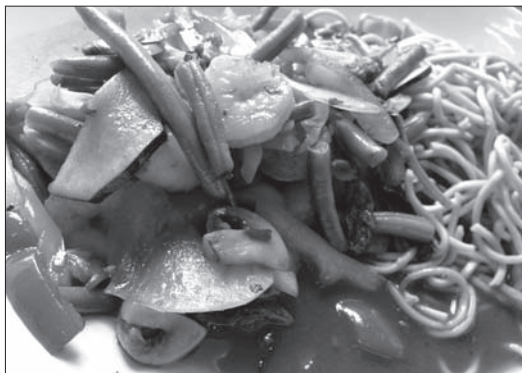


WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Europe



The spicy chicken soup with whole button mushrooms and coconut milk at Aroma Noodlebar in Wiesbaden could warm you on a chilly day.



PHOTOS BY ERIC A. BROWN/Stars and Stripes

The fried shrimp with Thai curry and wok vegetables at Aroma Noodlebar was tasty and large enough for two. Although I chose noodles, all dishes may be ordered with rice. Unfortunately, the noodles were a bit undercooked for my liking.

After Hours: Germany

BY ERIC A. BROWN
Stars and Stripes

It was chilly out: one of those days when it drizzles just enough to wear a jacket, but the rain is not quite hard enough to pop open the umbrella. A day when a hot bowl of soup or something spicy would hit the spot.

If you find yourself in this situation while in Wiesbaden's pedestrian-only shopping district, Aroma Noodlebar is a place where you can enjoy either or both.

Aroma's location, within a few steps of Mauritiusplatz, makes a great place to take a load off or meet friends inside to get warm, or on the patio in fairer weather.

Aroma boasts an extensive menu of — you guessed it — Asian noodles. But it also has plenty of salads, soups and pasta dishes, most for not more than 7-8 euros.

I ordered the chicken soup from the English menu. Although the menu instructs customers to pick up entrees from the bar, it was fairly early and only two other customers were eating, so the waitress brought the bowl to my table. The soup was abundant, with whole mushrooms and julienned vegetables floating in a rich, semi-spicy coconut broth. It really hit the spot. Although the portion was nearly enough for a meal, I looked forward to the main course.

I chose my main entree not merely because I like fried shrimp with vegetables but also because of its higher level of spiciness, indicated by the two small peppers next to the description. I figured two peppers would rate high enough on the Scoville scale to help warm my damp body.

The plate had a generous amount of fried shrimp with chili, basil and spring of

onions for crunch. I chose Asian noodles on the side, although all dishes also may be ordered with rice. I'll admit that I had a difficult time eating everything on my plate. But I managed, thanks to the help of a tasty glass of sweet tea.

Aroma's menu also lists a wide array of duck, beef and chicken dishes. These include spicy Japanese udon noodles in green curry, vegetables, chicken and a hint of coriander for warmth and color for 7.90 euros.

The salad menu was also fairly extensive, with traditional entrees such as the Asian, mixed and Caesar salad, each less than 6 euros. An unconventional selection, the goat cheese salad, goes for 7.40 euros. It's made of fresh tomatoes, cucumbers, sweet corn, crunchy walnuts, and red and green peppers topped with warm goat cheese and balsamic or yogurt dressing.

Aroma Noodlebar has a well-stocked bar serving beer, wine,

AROMA NOODLEBAR

Address: On Mauritiusstrasse 1 65183 Wiesbaden, just about halfway into Wiesbaden's pedestrian shopping district. The closest parking garage is City-Parkhaus, which is one block to the west and an easy walk. Be advised that this particular garage's interior was difficult to negotiate because of tight turns and narrow parking spots, so I don't recommend it for large American-style vehicles.

Menu: Quickly prepared Asian noodle dishes. Menu in English and German.

cocktails and specialty drinks. It also offers quite a few nonalcoholic drinks priced at 4.50 euros.

As I left, the waitress began to break, and the outdoor seats at Aroma Noodlebar began to fill

Hours: 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily.

Prices: Soups and starters range from about 3.20 to 4.30 euros; salads from 5.40 to 7.40 euros. Asian dishes range between 7 and 8 euros — some closer to 9 euros. Vegetarian dishes are between 5 and 6 euros. Soups as a main dish cost about 6.90 euros. Italian pastas are 6-7 euros.

Dress: Casual.
More information: Telephone: (+49) (0)611 2408951; website: aromanoodlebar.de.

— Eric A. Brown

up. The next time I find myself in Wiesbaden's pedestrian-only shopping district, I'll be sure to drop by again — in better weather, I hope.

brown.eric@stripes.com



Customers at Aroma Noodlebar are encouraged to order and pick up entrees from the bar. A variety of alcoholic beverages — beer, wine and cocktails — are available, along with non-alcoholic options.

Use garden goodness for stuffed tomatoes

Detroit Free Press

Here's a great use for any remaining tomatoes, zucchini and herbs from summer's bounty:

STUFFED TOMATOES

Makes: 10

Ingredients

2 cups long grain rice
10 large, firm ripe tomatoes
1/2 pound any size tomatoes
Boiling water
Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
1/2 cup cold water
3 tablespoons olive oil, divided
1 medium onion, peeled and finely chopped
2 small zucchini, washed, ends removed, finely diced
4 green onions, washed, ends removed, sliced
1/2 cup chopped fresh parsley

1 small bunch fresh basil, washed, chopped

Directions

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Rinse the rice under cold water; set aside.

Slice off the stalk end of each large, firm tomato and set aside. You'll use them as lids later. Cut away and scoop out the central ribs and seeds. Set aside the scooped-out flesh of four tomatoes. Finely chop the remainder of the scooped-out flesh and put in a bowl with the rice.

Put the hollow tomatoes upside down on a cooking rack over a baking dish to catch any excess juice. Take the extra 1/2 pound tomatoes and drop in boiling water for about 1 minute to loosen their skins. Remove from the water and remove the skins. Put the skinned tomatoes with the reserved scooped-out flesh of the four tomatoes in a food processor. Puree, season with salt and pepper and add the cold water. Set puree aside.

In a large skillet, heat 2 tablespoons of oil over medium heat. Add onions and saute until soft, about 3 minutes. Add zucchini and saute 2 minutes. Add the sauteed mixture to the rice. Stir in the green onions, parsley, basil and 1 tablespoon of olive oil.

Pour the tomato sauce in the bottom of a 9-by-13-inch baking dish. Season the inside of the tomatoes with salt and pepper, and gently pack the stuffing so the tomatoes are three-quarters full. Cover with their lids and place in the 9-by-13-inch baking dish so they fit snugly. Bake uncovered for about 1 hour or until rice is tender. Baste several times with the tomato sauce on the bottom. Remove from oven; cool before serving.

Tomatoes have 219 calories each.

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Above: A server carries two fists full of beer mugs to thirsty visitors on opening day of the 180th Oktoberfest in Munich on Sept. 21, 2013.

Left: Dimid-clad revelers hold traditional one-liter mugs of beer and smile for the photographer at last year's festivities.

Below: Visitors get their thrills on one of the rides on the fairgrounds at Oktoberfest 2013.



Tap into the fun

Munich's Oktoberfest kicks off Sept. 20

BY MICHAEL ABRAMS
Stars and Stripes

Worldwide, there are about 2,000 events that bill themselves as Oktoberfest. Some might be good, some bad, some big, some small, but none can compare to the real thing.

At the stroke of noon on Sept. 20, the Munich lord mayor will swing a hammer to pop the first keg, and the 181st edition of the Munich Oktoberfest — the real thing — will be underway.

Oktoberfest has always been a big deal. It began, after all, as a wedding party for a prince and his princess.

It was 1810 in the Bavarian capital, and Crown Prince Ludwig (later King Ludwig I) was marrying Princess Therese von Sachsen-Hildburghausen. The public was invited to celebrate the Oct. 12 wedding on a big field outside the gates of the city. In honor of the bride, the field was named Theresienwiese.

The event was such a hit, it was held again the following year, prompting the start of a traditional German celebration that has become world famous.

Eventually the festival was moved to September, according to the German Beer Institute, to coincide with the time when Bavarian brewers emptied their casks of the previous season's beer to start the new brewing season in October.

This year, from the tapping of the first keg until Sunday, Oct. 5, the Theresienwiese, now downtown in modern-day Munich, will be a mecca for beer drinkers and

For more photos of the 2013 Oktoberfest, visit stars.com/oktoberfest



partygoers all over the world.

While it is known as the world's biggest beer bash, Oktoberfest is steeped in tradition. It has been canceled only 24 times in its history and only because of war, hyperinflation in the 1920s and two outbreaks of cholera.

Tradition dictates that before the first keg is tapped, there is a grand entry parade of Oktoberfest landlords and breweries, led on horseback by a symbol of

the city, the Münchner Kindl, (Munich Child).

For the people of Munich, and lately even for tourists, the festival is as much a reason to dress up in their finest dirndl and lederhosen and stroll the fairgrounds as it is to drink beer.

If you are there for the beer, most of the action takes place in football field-size beer tents, some of which hold up to 7,000 people. As Bavarian brass bands oompah their way through Bavarian drinking songs, friends and strangers, locals and foreigners toast each other with one-liter beer mugs. They sing and

dance on the benches as the servers, with fists full of beer mugs or trays full of food, jockey their way through the madness.

To soak up the beer, popular food choices are soft pretzels; chicken; oaten roasted on spits; pork knuckles; Stöckerlisch, which are fish grilled on a stick; and, of course, pork sausages.

As the evening goes along, the oompah music fades and the bands strike up more modern songs to dance and sing along to, such as "Macarena," "Living Next Door to Alice," "The Ketchup Song" and the perennial Oktoberfest favorite, "Take Me Home, Country Roads."

Sprinkled in between those songs they will play the tune that every Oktoberfest visitor, whether Bavarian, American, Italian or Japanese will sing, with beer mugs raised high: "Ein prosit, ein prosit der Gemütlichkeit, ein prosit..."

Outside the tents, the fairgrounds offer a carnival atmosphere for all ages with roller

coasters, merry-go-rounds and Ferris wheels, slides, shooting galleries and mazes.

And there are special events. The International Costume and Riflemen's Parade takes place Sept. 21. First held in 1835, the six-kilometer procession from the city center to the Oktoberfest grounds features groups in folklore costumes, marching bands, riflemen in historical uniforms and the wagons of the Munich breweries. About 7,000 people from Germany, Austria and other European countries participate.

The following Sunday, there is an open-air concert of Oktoberfest bands at the foot of the giant Bavaria statue.

So, whether you go for the beer-slugging sing-along or for the history and the tradition — or for a little of both — Oktoberfest should be experienced at least once.

abrams.mike@stripes.com

KNOW & GO

When

Munich's 2014 Oktoberfest runs from Sept. 20 to Oct. 5.

Getting there

If you are considering driving, be aware that parking in Munich during Oktoberfest is very limited. If you park near the grounds, your car will be towed if it's parked illegally. Take the train. The Theresienwiese is in walking distance from Munich's main train station, and trains from all over Europe arrive there.

When in Munich, the subway is the best way to get to the festival grounds, but it will be crowded. Lines U4 and U5 stop at the Theresienwiese; U3 and U6 stop nearby at Goetheplatz or Poccistraße.

Where to stay

In theory, Munich is all booked up for Oktoberfest. In reality, though, people and companies book rooms a year in advance and then cancel. So, strange as it might seem, sometimes the later you search for a hotel, the luckier you get. Check the Munich website (munich.de) or hotel booking sites on the Web. Last year we found an affordable hotel just blocks from the grounds.

Times

- On opening day no beer will be served and no rides will operate until the first keg is tapped at noon.
- Fairground attractions will be open from 10 a.m. to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

HAESE
IT'S A GREAT DEAL

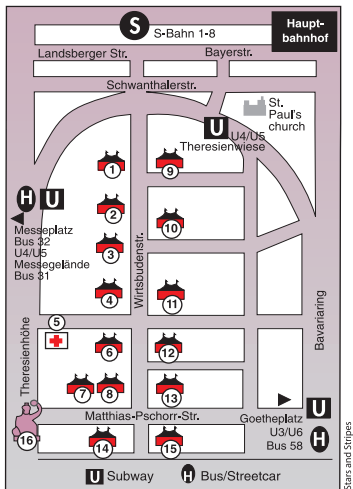
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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Oktoberfest



- Main tents**

 - 1 Marstall
 - 2 Armbrust-Schützen
 - 3 Hofbräu
 - 4 Hackerbräu
 - 5 Red Cross & Oktoberfest offices
 - 6 Schottenhamel
 - 7 Sportschützen
 - 8 Paulaner/Winzerei Fährndl

- 9 Fischer Vroni
 - 10 Spatenbräu/ Oxen barbecue
 - 11 Augustinerbräu
 - 12 Pschorrbräu/ Bräurosl
 - 13 Löwenbräu
 - 14 Käfers Wies'n schänke
 - 15 Wine tent
 - 16 Bavaria statue

Hotel Directory GERMANY

Hotel Am See
Kirchenhamm Str. 36
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M: reservations@courtyard-
wiesbaden.de

FROM PAGE 30

11:30 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays. The beer will stop flowing at 10:30 p.m.
• Hours will be 9 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. Sundays and on the Oct. 3 holiday.
• The Käfer tent and the Wein-wirt tent will stay open until 1 a.m. but stop serving at 12:15 a.m.
• Earlier is better for getting a seat, when the tents are full to overflowing, not-so-nice bounc-

ers keep people from entering.

Costs

The price for a liter mug of beer (a Maß) will be between 9.70 euros and 10.10 euros this year.

Tips

- There are restrooms spread throughout the festival grounds. Look for "WC" signs, and expect long lines.
- There are ATMs near the main entrance to the festival grounds.

• If you plan to hook up with friends at Oktoberfest, or if you want a meeting point in case you lose each other, the best place to meet is at the Lion-topped tower at the Löwenbräu tent.

More information

- Munich's official website is muniche.de.
- The official Oktoberfest site is oktoberfest.de.

— Michael Abrams

Restaurant Directory GERMANY

Bavaria-Graf/Vilseck area	Kaiserslautern area	Mainz / Wiesbaden area
<p>Since 1978</p> <p>China Restaurant Peking Chinese and Mongolian Buffet Nikolaistr. 8, 92675 Weiden/Opf. Tel. 0961-33896 Fax. 0961-34072; www.peking-weiden.de</p>	<p>Trattoria Da Salvatore Fleischercherlocher 1 66649 Landstuhl 06371-2497 www.pizzeria-salvatore.com</p>	<p>PAPPEL HAUS Steinertstrasse 2, 55252 Mainz-Kastel 06134-5649669 Get our juicy Irish Angus Burger!</p>
<p>PALLAS GREEK SPECIALITIES Unter Markt 15 92637 Weiden Tel/Fax: +49 (0)961-431 62</p>	<p>China Restaurant China City Mongolian Grill-Barbecue All you can eat Straßburger Allee 8 * KL 0631 303 7638 • Free parking</p>	<p>Okinii Taunus Strasse 22 65183 Wiesbaden Tel. 0611-23853808</p>
<p>KB's Country & Western Saloon Bergstr. 4, 9229 Vilseck 09662-7014481 Open Fri 19:00-03:00 Sat 18:00-03:00</p>	<p>Minges The Only Indoor and Outdoor Mexican Sports bar in Ktown. Am Warmfreibad 3 • 67657 Kaiserslautern Daily Drink & Menu Specials!</p>	<p>Villa im Tal Fine Dining - Events - Catering Adamstall 4 65195 Wiesbaden Tel. 0611-2386228 www.villaimtal.de</p>
<p>Garmisch-Partenkirchen La Mante Open Wed-Mon: Noon-11pm (Tues. Closed) Call For Reservations / Take Out Orders Tel. 08821-57486 www.ristorante-la-mante-garmisch.de Zugspitzstrasse 27, 82667 Garmisch-Partenkirchen</p>	<p>Mainz / Wiesbaden area Saytoun Cuisine Oriental Wilhelm Strasse 52 65183 Wiesbaden 0611-3086110</p>	<p>SMOKETRIE Nassaustrasse 6-8 65719 Hofheim-Wallau 06122-4022 www.smoketriebbq.com</p>
<p>Kaiserslautern area Holzofen Pizzeria Am Seeweg Waldrd. 40, 66877, Ramstein-Wiesenbach Tel: 06371 9522955 Tel: 06371 9522944 www.seewogpizzeria.de</p>	<p>ENCHILADA - PURO MEXICO! Enchilada - Restaurant Bay Mexicano Schützenhofstr. 3 65183 Wiesbaden Tel: 0611 450483-0 wiesbaden@enchilada.com www.enchilada.de</p>	<p>Café Temptation reservations recommended Walter-Hallstein Strasse 5-7 65197 Wiesbaden (5 minutes from the Hainberg/OPX area) Tel. 0611-6091230 Email: info@cafe-temptation.de www.cafe-temptation.de</p>
<p>QUACK Gasthaus & Biergarten Inn. Saich Gärtnere Entenweierstraße 74 67657 Kaiserslautern www.quack-kl.de Tel. 0631/42828</p>	<p>Gabriel's Restaurant Erich-Ollenhauser-Strasse 106 65199 Wiesbaden • Tel. 0611-85834 www.gabriel's-restaurant.de</p>	<p>Jodena's Diner Seerobenstrasse 29 65195 Wiesbaden (10 minutes from Hainberg) Tel. 0611-181 763 13 www.jodena's-diner.de Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/jodenas</p>
<p>Wiesbaden Book now! VAT form required. show your ID card. Book directly on mariott.com via your MII. code. T: +49 (0) 6122 801 0 F: +49 (0) 6122 801 800 M: reservations@courtyard- wiesbaden.de</p>	<p>Mainz / Wiesbaden area Brauhaus Castel Germany's Finest Beer and Authentic German Cuisine Unit Parties for up to 200 guests Ost Str. Ring 27 55252 Mainz-Kastel Tel. 06134-24999 www.brauhaus-castel.de</p>	<p>Wiesbaden Book now! VAT form required. show your ID card. Book directly on mariott.com via your MII. code. T: +49 (0) 6122 801 0 F: +49 (0) 6122 801 800 M: reservations@courtyard- wiesbaden.de</p>

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Bikes, a dog and the world

Seattle duo plans 3½-year, 5-continent trip

By KATHARINE SCHWAB

The Seattle Times

Imagine packing up your life, getting on a motorcycle and traveling around the world. It sounds crazy and impossible, especially for adults saddled by a mortgage, a job and family obligations.

But Seattle natives Mike and Shannon Mills — and their dog, Ducati, a Chihuahua — are taking off this month for a three-year trip. They'll traverse North and South America, Africa, Europe and Asia.

After years of fitting motorcycle adventures into two busy work schedules, the Millses came back from a monthlong overland trip to the Arctic Circle in 2009 and realized that all they wanted was a hot meal, more gas and their dog. With a far-off fantasy in mind, the Millses began saving money, skipping on new clothes and fancy-coffee drinks. A close friend's death two years ago became the catalyst for their ambition: saving enough money

to travel the world by motorcycle. The Millses began saving half of their income and set their departure date: Sept. 6, 2014.

They've sold their house and quit their jobs and are poised to take off on their Suzuki DR650 motorcycles.

'If you really have things you want to do, you have to make them happen.'

Shannon Mills

something when you don't know what that something is," said Shannon Mills.

But why circumnavigate the globe on motorcycles?

"You just fire up the engine and drive to the next town," said Mike Mills. "There's no mini-vans and tourists. There are no tour operators and buses. It's just this freedom. And on the

motorcycle you're more exposed, people can talk to you. You get dirty, you get wet, you get sunburned."

The couple, who met in high school and have been best friends ever since, call their philosophy of prioritizing adventure "sustainable unaccountability." It means that they "don't have to be accountable to anyone else's expectations of what a middle-aged, married couple in the United States should do with their lives."

That philosophy has led to their motorcycle trips through Laos, Vietnam and most recently to Mexico's Baja California, which was their dog Ducati's first trip. The Millses have discovered that long-distance, overland travel with a dog isn't as hard as one might think. At military checkpoints in Mexico, military guys with what Shannon Mills called "the mirrored sunglasses and the tough look and the weapons" would go gaga at the sight of the 10-pound dog.

"Mike would unzip the bag, out



STEVE RINDMAN, THE SEATTLE TIMES/MCT

Shannon and Mike Mills (and their 12-year-old dog, Ducati) will travel around the world on a three-year motorcycle trip.

pops Ducati's head and immediately these huge guys with guns say, 'Oh, it's a Chihuahua!'" said Shannon. "And they look at us and say, 'Go, go, go, you're fine.' It changes their whole demeanor. All of sudden we aren't threatening people because we have this really cute lap dog."

It's a good thing Ducati has many miles under his belt, because the route his owners have planned is long — more than 70,000 miles and 3½ years — and intense. The Millses will leave Seattle on Saturday and go south, all the way to southernmost

South America. From there, they'll bike back to Buenos Aires and fly to Africa, where their route will be determined by the political situation. After Africa, they'll travel through Europe, Central Asia and end the trip in Southeast Asia, their favorite part of the world.

Equipped with GoPro cameras, a satellite tracker and a MacBook, the Millses will be documenting the entire trip on their website, smboilerworks.com. They'll travel 125 to 250 miles per day (with a few days off per week) on a 57 a day.

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THE NEW SANNO

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Iconic foods worth traveling for

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

The travel website VirtualTourist.com has come up with the "Top 10 Iconic Foods and the Best Spots to Find Them."

1. Pastrami sandwich in New York City

Katz's Delicatessen has been a fixture in New York's Lower East Side neighborhood since 1888. Katz's has served its world-famous pastrami for more than 125 years. The deli even has online ordering, shipping all over the United States and to military addresses, a tradition that was established during World War II.

2. Pad thai in Bangkok

One of Thailand's more accessible and less spicy dishes, pad thai is many individual's first foray into Thai cuisine. Comprised of stir-fried rice noodles, egg, bean sprouts and peanuts, the dish is traditionally served with lime wedges and can be found all over Bangkok's street food scene. The most famous spot for pad thai in Bangkok is Thip Samai, across from Wat Thephadaram in the city's Banglamphu district.

3. Pizza in Naples, Italy

While pizza has been rein-

tered all over the world, the original slice can be traced back to the working-class neighborhoods of Naples. Two of the most famous shops are L'Antica Pizzeria da Michele and Pizzeria Di Matteo, the latter located near the Duomo.

4. Frites in Brussels

Belgium is well-known for many food specialties, including waffles, mussels and chocolate, but one of its greatest areas of expertise is in frites — known in the U.S. as french fries. Belgian frites are distinct for two reasons — they are usually made with Bintje potatoes, and they are fried not once, but twice! Vying for top spot in Brussels are Frit Flagey in Place Flagey, Friterie Tabora near the Grand Place and Maison Friterie Antoine in Place Jourdan.

5. Coffee and beignets in New Orleans

Cafe du Monde is a mandatory stop for any coffee connoisseur visiting the Big Easy. Conveniently located on Jackson Square, the patio at Cafe du Monde is a great spot to enjoy the European ambience and pace of New Orleans or listen to the city's famous street musicians and performers. The beignets

— square pieces of dough, fried and covered with powdered sugar — are a perfect complement to the chicory coffee.

6. Steak in Argentina

Argentina's steaks are a cut above the rest because the cattle are raised on grass in the pampas, not grains in feedlots. A few recommended parillas, or grill restaurants, are El Boliche de Alberto in Bariloche, Don Julio in Buenos Aires, and La Cabrera in the Palermo Viejo district of Buenos Aires.

7. Sushi in Tokyo

Delicious and fresh sushi is available all over Japan, but it is perhaps most associated with the sleek culture of Tokyo. Although there was some concern about the safety of dining on fish after Japan's tsunami and radiation scare, the incident has not affected the popularity or consumption of sushi within Japan. Check out Sushi Saito, which has three Michelin stars and only seven seats, located in Tokyo's Akasaka district.

8. Gelato in Florence, Italy

Gelato is a treat that no traveler visiting Italy can avoid or resist. The well-documented difference between gelato and

ice cream is the amount of air whipped into the batch — only 20 percent for gelato compared to 60 percent air for ice cream. This difference makes gelato denser and with a richer flavor. We strongly suggest Bar Vivoli, Perche No and Grom in Florence. Grom also has locations in Paris, New York, Tokyo, Malibu, Calif., and Osaka, Japan.

9. Crepes in Brittany, France

Although crepes can now be found all over, they originated in Brittany, in the northwest region of France. One unique aspect of this iconic food is it can be eaten either savory or sweet. Three widely recommended spots are Creperie Tout le Monde in Douarnenez, Corps de Garde in Saint Malo and Breizh Cafe in Cancun.

10. Chili crab in Singapore

Chili crab can be widely found throughout Singapore and Malaysia, but it is considered Singapore's signature seafood dish. Crabs are served in a bright red sweet and savory tomato and chili-based sauce, often with pullman toast, crusty bread or steamed buns to sop up the sauce. Try the Jumbo Seafood Restaurant in Singapore's East Coast Seafood Center.



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WEEKEND

Pacific

THE PACIFIC EXPERIENCE



SEE THIS: RICE PADDY ART

Art is created using rice plants in Aomori prefecture, Japan. See it now through Oct. 13 at Inakadate Village Hall (6th floor) and Michi-no Eki Inakadate, a 20-minute drive from Hirosaki city or a one-hour drive from Aomori city.

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ON BASE

Events are as accurate as possible at press time. Since times or event schedules can change, please verify events before attending.

Japan

- **Atsugi** Athletics has a Captain's Cup 10K run on Oct. 3.
- On Sept. 6 and 21, enjoy Takatori-yama Rock Climbing with **Yokosuka** Outdoor Recreation Center. Hike Mount Nokogiri and take a cable car ride on Sept. 14 with Yokosuka Tours.
- The Japanese-American Friendship Festival — with fireworks at 8:20 p.m. — is Sept. 6 and 7 on the Flighline and inside Hangar 15 at **Yokota** Air Base.
- Catch comedian Bill Bellamy for free at **Yokota** Enlisted Club at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 14. Take part in the 3K Wing Fun Run with Samurai Fitness Center on Sept. 19. Call to register.
- Want to learn to surf? Take a class for beginners with **Camp Zama's** Outdoor Recreation Center and Leisure Travel Service on Sept. 21.

Guam

- Hotspot at Andersen Air Force Base is showing "Pompeii" 6 p.m. Sept. 6 and "A Winter's Tale" at 6 p.m. Sept. 12 at the base theater. Enjoy Family Fun Field Day at 9 a.m. Sept. 20 at Coral Reef Fitness Center.

Okinawa

- See P.O.D. at Camp **Hansen** on Sept. 13 and 14 as part of the free Hansen Fest.
- Go snorkeling with whale sharks on Sept. 13 or try beginner sea kayaking on Sept. 13 or 27 with **Kadena** Outdoor Recreation.

To see your events here: SSPEDLibrary@stripes.com.

OFF BASE

Japan

MEGURO SANMA FESTIVAL (Tokyo): Sept. 7, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 6,000 grilled sanma fish (Pacific saury) from Miyako Fishery Port, Iwate prefecture, are given away 9 a.m., 10 a.m., noon & 1:30 p.m. at Hachiman Shrine near Meguro Station.

GRAND SUMO SEPTEMBER TOURNAMENT (Tokyo): Sept. 14-28; Ryogoku Kokugikan; Ryogoku Station, JR Sobu Line; fee charged; sumo.or.jp/eng.

TOKYO BAY CRUISE: Through Sept. 30, 7:15 p.m.; departs Takehashi Pier Terminal, seven-minute walk from JR Hamamatsucho Station (north exit); fee charged; nouryouen.jp.

Okinawa

RYUKYU DYNASTY MOON VIEWING

FESTIVAL: Sept. 6 & 7, 6:30-9 p.m.; a reproduction of the Mid-Autumn Banquet held during the Ryukyu Dynasty to welcome envoys from China. Visitors can enjoy Okinawan traditional performing arts under the autumn full moon at Shuri Castle Park, 1-2 Shuri Kinjo-cho, Naha; tinyurl.com/8j3s2zn.

South Korea

SEOUL DRUM FESTIVAL: Sept. 12 & 13; professional and amateur percussionists from around the world gather at Gyeongjuyeong Palace and Seoul Museum of History area; seouldrum.go.kr.

ICHEON CERAMIC FESTIVAL (Gyeonggi-do): Through Sept. 21; includes ceramics excavation, hands-on experience programs and more; take an intercity bus to Icheon Bus Terminal from Dong Seoul Bus Terminal, then take a taxi to Seoulbong Park; ceramic.or.kr.

IN VIEW

Visitors pose for a selfie near the fountain at Cheonggye stream in Seoul, South Korea, on Aug. 28. For more on the popular destination: english.sisul.or.kr.

LEE JIN-MAN/AP



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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific

Find the heart of Seoul

Shop, dine and learn at the South Korean capital's must-see locations

By AMIR BIBAWY
The Associated Press

South Korea's hyper-efficient capital doesn't immediately spring to mind when you think of exotic Asian destinations. But this mega-city offers much to tempt travelers beyond a layover from the ultra-modern international airport in nearby Incheon.

You can explore Korea's rich historic heritage by visiting temples and palaces, wander around the enormous National Museum of Korea, and savor the delights of its surprisingly varied cuisine.

Strategically and culturally, Korea is wedged between East Asia's superpowers, Japan and China. As you travel around Seoul, you'll understand the intricate connections among the three countries.

Pick a palace

High on your list should be one or two of Seoul's five palaces. Most guidebooks recommend Gyeongbok-gung, the grandest. But I headed to Changdeok-gung, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, instead. The sprawling palace grounds can only be visited on guided tours; check the schedule to make sure you catch a tour in the right language. There's one tour of the famous gardens and another of palace buildings.

Shop, eat, stroll

Koreans love to shop, and there's nowhere better for it than the pedestrian shopping district of Myeong-dong, where I stayed. Streets are lined with brand-name stores (both Korean and Western) open late into the night. It also has countless restaurants and cafes.

Another essential stop is Gwangjang Market, which bustles with street food vendors and little restaurant-shacks in the evening when its shops have closed. Locals go there for Korean pancakes made from mung beans called *bindaetdeok* and cheap street food. I opted for



PHOTOS BY AMIR BIBAWY/The Associated Press

A cook at a food stall in Seoul's Gwangjang Market prepares fresh dumplings that are served in a piping-hot soup.

one of the ubiquitous dumpling soup places, where for about \$5 you get a huge bowl of steaming soup with pork dumplings, freshly made before your eyes. In winter, the stall benches are even heated. On my second visit to the market, I had sashimi and rice wine. The sashimi was near-frozen, a common way of serving it there and different from the Japanese room-temperature tradition.

For traditional Korean food



For traditional Korean food beyond the market, venture into a tent restaurant, which serves dishes like "bibimbap."

beyond the market, venture into one of the tent restaurants that serve food late into the night in popular nightlife districts. Get your fix of *bibimbap* — a rice dish with vegetables, egg, meat and chili or soy sauce — along with a traditional seafood stew, which is hearty and warm.

For traditional architecture, Bukchon Village, a neighborhood of traditional Korean houses with slanted roofs, is a nice place to stroll. The area is flanked by two palaces and dotted with chic boutiques and cafes.

Soak up some history

The National Museum of Korea is a must for those seeking to go beneath Seoul's veneer of technology and learn about the country's history.

The museum — Asia's largest and sixth-largest in the world — is suitably impressive from the outside, with a futuristic archi-



Bukchon village is one of the few places in Seoul where you can see dozens of traditional Korean houses.

tectural design that pays tribute to Korea's modernization. Inside, many of the more than 300,000 pieces are designated National Treasures of Korea. The building design utilizes natural light in many galleries, which makes it easy to explore for hours without feeling like you're stuck in a vault all day. Highlights include Buddhist bells on the third floor and the Ten-Story Pagoda, a unique marble structure built in the 14th century, looming over the ground floor. It was taken to Japan before World War II (Japan occupied Korea from 1910 to 1945), but was returned to Korea in 1960, disassembled.

It's been painstakingly restored and is an enduring symbol of an architecture style little-known outside the country.

Tackle the tower

Finally, don't leave Seoul without venturing up to the N Seoul Tower, the city's highest tourist point, offering a view from the top at nearly 1,600 feet above sea level. You can hike through Namsan Park, Seoul's Central Park, to the base of the tower or take a cable car up. It's busy at dusk, but a nice time to watch as the city below you transforms into a stunning and colorful display of lights.



Changdeok-gung palace compound, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the city's five palaces, is likely to be high on a visitor's must-see list in the South Korean capital.

WEEKEND: MUSIC

NEW ALBUMS



Various Artists

Nashville Outlaws:
A Tribute to Motley Crue
(Big Machine/Elven Seven)

Country artists have long paid tribute to rock acts compatible with country music, from the Eagles to Buddy Holly to country-loving British acts the Beatles and Rolling Stones. But a heavy-metal act like Motley Crue? For anyone listening to the recent arena-rock crunch in country music, country covering the Crue isn't a surprise at all.

What might be a surprise is how ferociously some of country's more mild-mannered acts rise to the occasion. Rascal Flatts has never come close to rocking as hard as on its version of "Kickstart My Heart," which rightly opens the album and sets the bar for others to match.

Florida Georgia Line pales in comparison with the formulaic "If I Die Tomorrow."

Highlights include Justin Moore's "Home Sweet Home," with its Lynyrd Skynyrd-guitar tone and soulful vocals, The Mavericks using a Latin rhythm on "Dr. Feelgood" to bring out its dramatic story line, Eli Young Band's sweetly melodic "Don't Go Away Mad" and Lee Ann Rimes' swinging "Smoking In The Boys Room."

— Michael McCall
The Associated Press



Ace Frehley

Space Invader (eOne)

With seven-plus years of sobriety under his belt, the original Kiss lead guitarist has recorded his best solo album since his self-titled effort in 1978.

With walls of wailing guitars, droning feedback and snarling solos, Ace Frehley launches an old-school '70s-style hard rock jam fest. It kicks off with him talk-singing his way through the title track, about a well-intentioned extraterrestrial who comes to save the Earth, and it includes a sudden tempo change for the guitar solo just like he did on "Snowblind" and "I'm In Need of Love" on his '78 debut.

"Gimme A Feelin'" is a timeless rocker, with thick guitar chords, and "I Wanna Hold You" and "What Every Girl Wants" would be melodic hits. On "Change" and "Inside the Vortex," Frehley showcases impressive growth as a songwriter and arranger.

The only weak track is a remake of Steve Miller's "The Joker" that adds nothing to the original, but apparently was too much for Frehley to resist with its "Space Cowboy" intro.

— Wayne Parry
The Associated Press



Bishop Allen

Lights Out (Dead Oceans)

When Bishop Allen debuted in 2003, the band embodied nearly everything of the moment.

Ivy Leaguers Justin Rice and Christian Rudder made twee music about their 20-something lives and released it on their own label. In their spare time, Rice starred in mumblecore movies and Rudder co-founded the on-line dating service OKCupid.

That much hip simply could not last. And on their fourth album, "Lights Out," Bishop Allen clearly understands that and explains why they're OK with the changes.

"There was everybody getting tired of drinking every night," Rice sings in "Why I Had to Go" over a bouncy synth-pop backdrop. "There was a little left to believe in, which is how I really knew I should be leaving."

In "Start Again," they seem positively thrilled about rebooting their sound into something poppier and more complex.

"Lights Out" might not be as timely as the previous albums, but that might work in its favor.

— Newsday



Kimbra

The Golden Echo (Warner Bros.)

In a year in which many big-ticket records have stressed brevity and focus, there's something to be said for New Zealand pop iconoclast Kimbra's "The Golden Echo."

Best known in America for her vocals on the smash "Somebody That I Used to Know," the magnetic multi-instrumentalist on her second solo album moves through a strange and often surprising set of tones and approaches. A virtual layer cake of futuristic funk pop, contemporary R&B and maximalist Top 40 music slathered with the purple icing of Prince, "The Golden Echo" swaps styles with gleeful — and at times reckless — abandon, an apt pop offering for this pattern-on-pattern cultural moment.

A remarkable chameleon, at various points Kimbra swings her voice to suggest Chaka Khan, Amy Winehouse. The xx's Romy Madley Croft and Janelle Monae, and weaves her tone through music thick with structural experimentation.

— Randall Roberts
Los Angeles Times



Tank

Stronger (Atlantic Records)

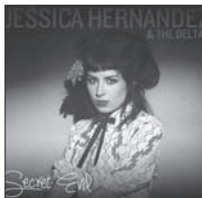
Tank made a mark in R&B over the years for earnestly pouring his heart out on ballads such as "Maybe I Deserve" and "Please Don't Go," as well as writing songs for Jamie Foxx, Aaliyah and others.

Showing passion is Tank's strong suit, but the singer lacks some of that fervor on his latest release, "Stronger." He sounds like a different version of himself on the first half of his sixth album, and that's not a good thing. On the upbeat tracks "Dance With Me" and "I Gotta Have It," he fails with simple lyrics and draggy production. "Same Way" is also an unattractive melody that lacks spirit and swagger.

Tank finds his stride toward the end of the 10-track album, especially flourishing on "Hope This Makes You Love Me," as he looks to prove his worth to his mate.

The title song is also a winner, saving Tank's album from being a total disappointment.

— Jonathan Landrum Jr.
The Associated Press



Jessica Hernandez & The Deltas

Secret Evil (Instant Records)

When "Secret Evil" wraps, it leaves a large shadow behind. That weird melancholia you get after returning from a vacation is conjured, the desire to instantly return to that intoxicating locale. Thankfully, this destination is a play button away. Push it, and you're not only back in one of 2014's most deftly sequenced, produced, written and performed albums, but you're in the midst of an enthralling netherworld you will feel more hesitant to leave with each visit.

— Cole Waterman
PopMatters.com



Smokey Robinson

Smokey & Friends (Verve)

The biggest problem with Smokey Robinson's "Smokey & Friends" is also its biggest strength: No one sings these classics better than Smokey did. So, do we really need to hear what he sounds like with Elton John on "Tracks of My Tears" or with Jessie J on "Cruisin'?"

No offense to Elton, but no. What keeps "Smokey & Friends" on track, though, is the good-natured spirit of collaboration that rolls through some of these songs, especially the wild ending of "You Really Got a Hold on Me" with Steven Tyler, and the laid-back, bluesy reworking of "Ain't That Peculiar" with James Taylor.

— Newsday



Literature

Chorus (Slumberland)

On one hand, the Philadelphia-based group sort of recalls British Invasion-type bands through their nonstop hooks and the kind of British-sounding vocals. It's a visual image when I listen is a young, cheery, head-nodding band; hot new sensations, something like the band in the film "That Thing You Do" but cooler and better. At the same time, in spirit and sound there's just as much, or more, '80s UK indie-pop: Pile of Mice, Felt, etc. And other '80s touchpoints: a Cure-like bassline here, some New Order synths there. There's lushness, romanticism and an inherent siding with the lonely and the sad that recalls that era even when there are audible echoes of earlier rock-pop eras and styles.

— Dave Heaton
PopMatters.com



Opeth

Pale Communion (Roadrunner)

"Pale Communion" is the sound of a band slipping comfortably into the rhythms that we've come to expect of it. It's an album that has the ebb and flow of "Blackwater Park" and the Comus-indebted prog of "Heritage," Opeth's last effort. Listening to "Pale Communion," it's much easier to see the short-comings of "Heritage," and in so doing it clarifies just how far Opeth has come, and casts new light on the (mis)steps the group has taken in wholeheartedly embracing vintage prog. "Pale Communion" is perhaps the defining document of this group's ability to make progressive rock feel genuinely progressive.

— Bruce Ezell
PopMatters.com



Pallbearer

Foundations of Burden (Proud Lore)

"Foundations of Burden" has the unenviable task of being the sophomore release of a tremendously well-received debut. Novice listeners are pretty much thrown into the deep end with the ten-minute opening track "Worlds Apart." Without a catchy riff or much in terms of show-off musical techniques, "Worlds Apart" carefully unfurls itself. It's a logical extension of "Sorrow and Extinction's" lengthy jams, but with a noticeably clearer production. The crisp sound is partly credited to producer Billy Anderson, whose studio work has included Mr. Bungle, Swans, High on Fire, Impaled, and Sleep's stoner classic "Dopesmoker."

— Sean McCarthy
PopMatters.com

WEEKEND: MUSIC

& Peak cheesiness painful sincerity

New music from Maroon 5, Counting Crows

BY ALLISON STEWART
Special to The Washington Post

Keith Richards calls it “lead vocalist syndrome.” Its symptoms include a bloated self-regard that often masks a profound insecurity, a susceptibility to flattery and a refusal to attend sound check. It’s almost always terminal.

Counting Crows lead singer Adam Duritz and Maroon 5’s Adam Levine are, unfairly or not, poster children for this affliction. They’re the most maligned frontmen of their respective generations. They’re captains of profoundly uncool bands famous for their offstage exploits, canyon-dwelling lotharios who have a fondness for Victoria’s Secret models that borders on encyclopedic (Levine) and who dated two-thirds of the female cast of “Friends” during a brief but legendary period in the mid-’90s (Duritz).

This week, their bands dropped new albums that neatly encapsulate everything you might love or hate about either group, although their approaches vastly differ. For Duritz, a former English major who has been open about his struggle with mental illness, albums are life-and-death artistic expressions of what is probably a really complicated id. For Levine, the reigning Sexiest Man Alive who recently married a supermodel, albums are things that help move ancillary product, such as his Kmart line of clothing or his fragrance (“Adam Levine,” with notes of amber and sandalwood).

Maroon 5 began as a limpid soul-pop band and diversified into funky, dance-floor pop after the like-minded “Moves Like Jagger” resuscitated the band’s flat-lining career. Its last release, “Overexposed,” wasn’t a cohesive album but a grab bag of post-“Jagger” hopefuls manned by hitmakers such as Max Martin and engineered for chart domination. “Overexposed” was a shameless race to the bottom, but “V” (pronounced “five”) is better. It’s what happens when a talented band unburdens itself of its few remaining scruples, hires a small army of boldface super-producers and aims for peak cheese.

“V” is a more cohesive disc than its predecessor, and it hits every guilty-pleasure nerve bundle. There are songs that imitate the Police, songs that imitate Bruno Mars imitating the Police, and exercises in giddy, Prince-fied disco funk (“Sugar”) and falsetto-happy, warp-speed dance pop (“Feelings”) when it comes to song titles, Maroon 5 does not over-achieve).

The record-closing, weepy “My Heart Is Open” is a duet with Gwen Stefani, Levine’s fellow judge on “The Voice” and his closest living female analogue. In fulfillment of the band’s one-thoughtful-song-per-album mandate, everyone pretends to be contemplative and sad, but Levine wasn’t made for that — he was built to be callow and slippery, and he’s commendably good at those things. To hear him try to compute any emotion other than lust or mild annoyance feels artificial and awkward, like watching a dog try to play Words With Friends.

If Maroon 5 has a sincerity deficit, Counting Crows are the opposite — they’re painful sincerity personified. They began life as the world’s most accomplished Van Morrison tribute band and have pretty much stayed that way, specializing in earnest and rootsy pop-folk that is roomy enough to encompass country, exaggeratedly twangy mock country, Deadhead jam folk and even the manic pop of “Accidentally in Love,” the band’s 2004 hit and its only flirtation with a “Moves Like Jagger”-style career realignment. “Somewhere Under Wonderland,” its first album of original material in six years, might be the band’s best since its 1993 debut, “August and Everything After,” with a handful of songs (the sprawling, almost prog-y opener, “Palisades Park,” the lean ballad “God of Ocean Tides”) that rank among the band’s finest. Its bedrock sound and lyrical themes remain largely unchanged — love mystifies, fame alienates, Middle America is a comforting blank space — with enough art-pop name-dropping (Elvis, Alex Chilton, Johnny Appleseed) to rival Thomas Pynchon.

The disc’s best track, “Earthquake Driver,” contains one of the most apt descriptions of rock stardom in memory: “I am a cipher/I am a blank space/Filled up with words you remember/From whenever you saw my face.” It’s a bouncy, Mumbfordian exercise in cognitive dissonance even Levine might recognize.

“V” is both shinier and darker than any of his band’s past work, festooning even its source songs with tinsel. When, on the creepy but strangely upbeat “In Your Pocket,” Levine confronts a faithless lover (“Show me that phone in your pocket, girl/... It should be really easy/If you have nothing to hide”), it feels overbearing and stalker-esque. If anyone in 2014 still thinks this is sexy, Robin Thicke’s career died in vain.

Adam Duritz

Courtesy of Universal Music Group

Adam Levine

PAUL A. HEBERT, INVISION/AP

WEEKEND: BOOKS

AN ODE TO CROSSWORDS

British author's overview of the history of word puzzles is right on the mark

By DINESH RAMDE
The Associated Press

If you love solving crosswords, you know how it feels to be in the fraternity. There's the rush of matching wits with a mysterious puzzle-maker, the thrill of nailing an elusive answer and the satisfaction of filling in the final square.

There's a charm in playing the game, a charm that can be hard to describe. But Alan Connor, a British quizmaster who writes a column on crosswords for the Guardian newspaper, is more than up to the challenge.

Connor is the author of "The Crossword Century: 100 Years of Witty Wordplay, Ingenious Puzzles, and Linguistic Mischief." The book details the history and evolution of crosswords since the first one appeared in 1913. But what makes it such a fun read

is Connor's evident passion for all things crossword.

"The moments you spend in a puzzle have the potential to shut out the outside world for a blessedly silent period," he says. "You return refreshed from a happier place."

Indeed. Solvers recognize that feeling, but it's nice to be reassured that others share our appreciation. Crosswords are largely a solitary affair, so it's easy to lose sight of how many share our bond.

Connor traces the history of crosswords across newspapers and Hollywood. But his deeper message is when he preaches

charmingly to the choir, reaffirming to crossword fans without a hint of smugness why their obsession feels so satisfying.

He clearly relishes the ambiguity of the English language, as when he recounts clues such as "Die of cold?" for ICE CUBE.

He also appreciates the choreography between the puzzle creator and solver.

"Yes, the constructor is aiming to lose gracefully and intends you to decrypt every clue," he notes. "But that doesn't mean the crossword should simply crumble before the novice. There has to be a degree of bloodshed."

One of the most interesting chapters is his paeon to one of the most famous puzzles of all: a 1996 New York Times gem in which the solver is asked what the next day's headline will be. The answer was designed so the intersecting letters could spell either CLINTONELECTED or BOBDOLEELECTED.

While Connor spends plenty of ink appreciating the crossword, he also devotes several chapters to its British cousin, the cryptic. He tries to teach readers how to decipher a cryptic's maddening clues — with limited luck.

For example, we're supposed to recognize that the answer to "Strange I should tan poorly" is OUTLANDISH, an anagram of "I should tan." Seriously?

Despite Connor's best efforts, he might not inspire many crossword fans to tackle cryptics. But with his short chapters and crisp, elegant writing, he does give them a fresh appreciation for their crossword obsession.

"To tackle a crossword is to enjoy the experience of your brain pulling on many different areas simultaneously, working in a way that everyday life rarely calls for," he says.

Crossword lovers will certainly relate.



Your Face in Mine

Jess Row

Race is the impossible subject of this new novel, the incendiary issue that conquers and divides. And yet, Row drives into this inflammatory subject head-on with thought-provoking bravado.

"Your Face in Mine" opens with Kelly Thorneidge, a Baltimore native back in his hometown after a tragedy, running into a man on the street whom he can't quite place. The man, who is black, greets him, "Kelly," he says. "It's Martin."

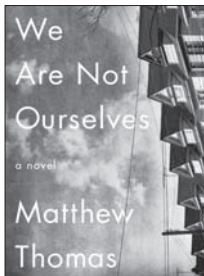
Martin Lipkin was a high school friend. White like Kelly, but not anymore. He's the recipient of voluntary racial-reassignment surgery.

But of course, willingly, eagerly changing your race — and hoping to monetize the process internationally by publicizing your deeply personal act — is not only a big thing; it's the biggest thing, a potent cultural hand grenade.

What happens to the world when altering our race becomes possible? Martin compares it to gender surgery. But as Kelly delves deeper into Martin's past, a troubling secret agenda emerges.

As we head toward a multihued future, Row has provided us with stimulating fuel for the ride.

—Jonke Ogle
The Miami Herald



We Are Not Ourselves

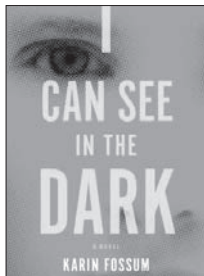
Matthew Thomas

"We Are Not Ourselves" is an epic of small events. By that I don't mean its story is insignificant, but quotidian; the particular struggles of the day-to-day.

The book is centered around Eileen Tumulty, a daughter of the Irish working-class in Queens, N.Y. Eileen's existence is summed up in the first two syllables of that last name — tumult — or more accurately, in the drive to push past her limitations, which have been imposed in many ways by time and place. Grace is hard to come by, at least for Eileen. Her husband, Edmund Leary, is a research scientist who turns down promotions to continue teaching at a community college. Their son, Connell, remains curiously recalcitrant, socially awkward and increasingly distanced the older he gets.

Thomas, who grew up in Queens, clearly understands his territory; at times, "We Are Not Ourselves" reads like a family history in its evocation of New York's outer boroughs and second-tier suburbs of the 1980s, with their mix of immigrants and culture clash. He is unafraid to portray this in all its complexity, most acutely when it comes to Eileen, who recoils at the changing face of her community.

—David L. Ulin
Los Angeles Times



I Can See in the Dark

Karin Fossum

This taut, well-paced book is written from the point of view of a sociopath named Riktor. From the beginning, his observations reveal his distorted worldview.

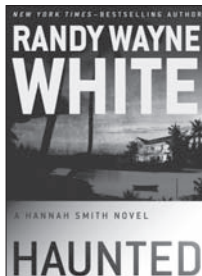
He works in a nursing home where he inflicts hidden cruelties on helpless residents. The title of the book comes from his claim that, indeed, he can see in the dark. Readers quickly learn, though, that reality and Riktor's view of reality often differ.

For most of the book, Riktor wrestles with irony. He's accused of doing something he didn't do, all the while knowing there are crimes he did commit that he hasn't been accused of — yet.

Page after page, layer after layer, Riktor reveals his madness and his growing separation from others and society in general. "The pious will also perish, and we'll get no reward in heaven," he narrates mid-book. "So what was the point of exerting ourselves?"

Considering he had just committed a terrible crime, it's chilling to see Riktor consider himself on the side of piety. The last line of the novel is especially chilling, considering Norway's tendency toward lenient criminal penalties. But it's perfect in the context of the character.

—Garry Jacobson
Dallas Morning News



Haunted

Randy Wayne White

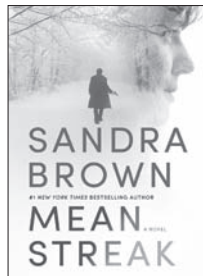
White has built a legacy exploring Florida's history and ecology. But an evocative look at Florida and its often-ignored role in the Civil War can't make up for a lack of action in "Haunted," his third novel about Hannah Smith, a Gulf Coast fishing guide and private detective.

Hannah is hired by Palm Beach socialite Bunny Tuppemeyer to investigate supernatural events supposedly happening in an abandoned historical house near the Caloosahatchee River. Bunny and the other investors planned to build condos on the land, but now she just wants out of the deal. If the roles that the house and land had during the Civil War were never mentioned during the deal, Bunny will be able to prove that the sealer broke the disclosure law to get out of the investment. For clues to the house's past, Hannah reads her great-great uncle's Civil War journal, which gives her a chilling, accurate account of often forgotten battles and happenings in Florida.

Hannah is well sculpted in the series' previous two novels, seems at sea here, as directionless as the plot.

Still, "Haunted" shows that White is a skilled tour guide for a visceral visit to Florida.

—Olivia H. Coghill
Sun Sentinel



Mean Streak

Sandra Brown

Although Dr. Emory Charbonneau, a pediatrician and marathon runner, has a tumultuous relationship with her husband, Jeff, they are trying to work things out. She arranges to take a weekend off to head to the mountains to train for a marathon, but Jeff is furious, and they argue before she leaves.

Emory arrives at her destination, spends the night in a hotel and is on the trail the next morning. She receives a massive blow to the head and later wakes up inside a cabin. A man tells Emory that he found her unconscious and brought her to the cabin to administer first aid. When she asks for a ride back to civilization, he comes up with excuses to keep her inside and "safe."

Meanwhile, Jeff begins to wonder about his wife but argues before she leaves. She is still angry and is intentionally staying away from home. When the police begin to question him about her whereabouts, they start to think he's responsible for her disappearance.

A quick glance might invoke thoughts of a tale mixing Gilian Flynn's "Gone Girl" with Stephen King's "Misery," but as Brown unveils the full scope of the story, readers will be shocked and delighted about the direction "Mean Streak" takes.

—Jeff Ayers/AP

WEEKEND: ENTERTAINMENT

NEW ON DVD

"Draft Day": Makers of the Kevin Costner film are banking that rabid NFL fans will have as much interest in a fictional version of the annual draft as they do in the real one. Director Ivan Reitman rips back the curtain to show the process coaches and executives go through to select college football prospects for their teams. Just in case there's not enough drama — and comedy — as last-second deals are being made, Reitman's sprinkled in a few human interest stories. The combination isn't a touchdown, but it does score a few points. Where the film fumbles is the mix of reality and fantasy. The NFL gave the filmmakers unprecedented access to NFL facilities — even filming the real draft. It's understandable that the names of the players being discussed in this fictional story wouldn't be real, but there are still some jarring moments. It's hard to look at Super Bowl XLVIII winner Seattle having the first pick — the spot reserved for the worst team in the NFL.



SUMMIT ENTERTAINMENT/AP

Kevin Costner, center, stars in "Draft Day," written by Rajiv Joseph, left, and Scott Rothman, right. The movie is now on DVD.

"Mom's Night Out": Dads are forced to take care of the children while the moms enjoy a night out. It's always painful to knock a family, faith-based movie because there are so few films made in the genre. But a review isn't based on good intentions; it has to look at the execution. The big problem is that none of the moms are interesting. Patricia Heaton sleepwalks her way through the role of Sondra, the preacher's wife with a shady past, while Andrea Logan White's portrayal of the nerdy Lizzy is so dull she would make a wallflower look exciting. Abbie Cobb is supposed to play the bad girl of the group, Bridget, but she's got little to do except run around and shout, "Where's my baby?" It's judgment day for "Mom's Night Out." The family-friendly film starts out with promise but never comes through.

Also new on DVD Sept. 2:
"The World Wars": History channel series that looks at three decades of 20th Century world war.
"They Came Together": It is hate at first sight for a couple, Paul Rudd stars.
"Bonanza: The Official Seventh Season—Volumes One and Two"
"Line of Duty, Series 2": Keeley Hawes plays a member of AC12, a police anti-corruption unit, charged with investigating an ambush of a police convoy.
"Leave the World Behind": Electronic dance group Swedish House Mafia decides to end the group in order to save their friendship.
"Lovejoy, Series 2": Ian McShane plays an antiques dealer in this whodunit.
"The Originals: The Complete First Season": CW series about the battle for New Orleans between vampires and witches.
"Midsomer Murders, Series 10 and Series 11"
"Person of Interest: The Complete Third Season"
"Looney Tunes Platinum Collection Volume 3"
"Duck Dynasty: Quack or Treat?": Phil, Willie, Si and Jase Robertson get their costumes ready to do some serious pumpkin carving.

— Rick Bentley/The Fresno Bee



Showtime

The cast of "Masters of Sex," which includes Lizzy Caplan, above, and Caitlin Fitzgerald, left, are dressed in clothing designed exclusively for the show.

Designer gives the '50s look of 'Masters of Sex' a solid foundation

By RICK BENTLEY
The Fresno Bee

The key to costume designer Ana Crabtree making the cast of Showtime's "Masters of Sex" look like they are appropriately dressed — or undressed — for the late '50s starts with a solid foundation of undergarments.

The look of women's underwear from the period — especially bras that had a very bullet shape and the body-hugging girdles — is what makes the suits, dresses and other outer garments look right.

All of the clothes — under and outer — for the main actors are made by Crabtree and her team.

"I start out trying to make every piece for all the principles and even some of the day players. I do that because everything has to be a certain palette. Everything has to be tonally right for our show," Crabtree says. "What I started learning was that because the '50s were so primary in tone — on purpose because we had to be happy after the war — it didn't work for our show. So instead of trying to dye everything to soften the

primary colors, I just decided to make everything."

The series follows the sexual studies performed by William H. Masters (Michael Sheen) and Virginia E. Johnson (Lizzy Caplan) and features many scenes where the actors are stripped down to their underwear. Every piece of underwear is designed for the actors to bring together the look of the time period with the comfort of modern fabrics.

Crabtree tells the female actors that the underwear of the '50s creates a sense of confidence. The actresses still have to squeeze into girdles, which helps give them the kind of posture that's right for the time period, but they are made from modern Spandex that has more give than the material from a half century ago.

Not only does making all of the clothes help fit the overall visual design of the show, it makes for happier actors. Crabtree's found that when the clothes feel right, the wardrobe feels more like a second skin.

Creating and fitting outfits can often be done in record time. Television production moves quickly, so that means

a wardrobe request can come only days before filming.

There's not enough time to make the clothing for the background actors. The majority of what they wear come from one of the many costume houses in Los Angeles. But, even when given an impossible time frame, Crabtree makes all of the clothes needed for the main cast.

Crabtree started making her own clothes when she was young out of necessity. She grew up in northern Kentucky away from any real centers for fashion, so she started with trips to the thrift stores run by the Salvation Army. After attending Harlaxton College in Lincolnshire, England, and The Fashion Institute of Technology in New York, Crabtree began working in the TV and film world in the mid-'90s. Her costume designs have been seen in a host of TV shows: "The Sopranos," "Without a Trace," "LAX," "Shark," "Justified" and "Pan Am."

"Oddly, what influences me the most is a study of Shakespeare and painting," Crabtree says. "It gives you a different kind of eye when you approach this world, which is so serious."

WEEKEND: HEALTH & FITNESS

Fit a workout into your workday

By LESLIE BARKER

The Dallas Morning News

Next to "the dog ate my homework," one of the most lamebrain excuses around might be this one: "Work keeps me too busy to exercise."

To that, we roll our eyes, engage our core and lift both feet off the ground slowly, hold for a breath or two, and lower them.

"Do you have 60 seconds?" asks Dallas-area personal trainer Kristi Dear. "Do you have two minutes?"

Of course you do. How long does it take to heat your leftovers in the break room microwave? How much time do you spend on the phone? Not to get too personal, but how often do you make a restroom trek?

Incorporate just five moving bouts of 60 seconds (or 10 of 30) throughout your day, and by the time you go home, that's 10 minutes. By week's end, it's 50. And you don't even have to keep a jump rope at your desk or set up a basketball hoop on the parking lot.

"You could hold in the phone," says Dear.

But, she concedes, "People would walk by and go, 'What?'"

For a subtler approach, we asked Trina Hall, an experienced registered yoga teacher, and Dallas personal trainer Turner Cavender for in-office suggestions. These moves won't necessitate a shower, says Cavender, who owns Dallas Fit Body Boot Camp, but "your body is getting blood moving around."

We divided the tips into three categories necessary for all-around fitness: cardio, strength and flexibility.

Cardio

Take the stairs. Obvious? Maybe. But how often do you find yourself waiting for the elevator when the stairwell is just around the corner? Take them two steps at a time one flight, one step the next. Use your cubicle on the first floor? Use the restroom on the second.

Stand up. Set your phone or watch timer, and every 30 minutes, get your bottom out of the chair. Use the time to assess your to-do list, Cavender says. Or get a drink of water.

"Get the blood flowing. This helps eliminate back problems. When you're seated for so long, your hip flexors shorten and that pulls on your lower back. The shorter they are, the more pain you feel."

Move your feet. Walking to lunch, yes, but also while you're sitting down. Do so when you're on the phone, or reading a report.

"Tap your toes on the floor for a minute straight," Cavender says. Alternate feet, or do them at the same time. Feel those calf muscles?



PHOTOS BY ANDY JACOBSON, THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS/MCT

Personal trainer Kristi Dear demonstrates two exercises that can be performed while at work.

Above: Use connected rubber bands to strengthen legs. Put one loop of the connected rubber bands around each ankle. With knees bent and feet on the floor, straighten and bend each leg for one minute.

Right: Practice pushups against a countertop. Position hands various distances apart, and do them slowly for 30 to 45 seconds.



Strength

Practice your pushups. Do them against the stairs — if the stairwell is empty and you don't mind putting your hands where others put their feet. Or you can perfect your push-up prowess against the break room countertop while your coffee is heating, Dear says.

Do them slowly or see how many you can do in those 30 to 45 seconds. Position your hands various distances apart.

Tone your triceps. Eliminate jelly arms by placing your

hands on a bathroom sink or break room countertop behind you. Extend your legs until you are balancing on your heels. Bend your elbows and dip, then straighten, in sort of an inverted pushup. Repeat until it feels uncomfortable.

Tone your triceps II. For the next two exercises, Dear recommends connecting two large (5 to 6 inches) rubber bands. Hold one end in your right hand. Bending your elbow, let the other end drop behind your back. Grasp it with your left hand. Keeping that

hand steady, straighten your right elbow. Do each side for a minute, tightening the tension as weeks go by and the exercise becomes easier.

Dear prefers time to reps. "If I said to do 25, one person may say, 'That didn't work,' and another would say, 'That's hard!'"

As you get stronger with this and the following exercise, work on increasing the number of reps you do each minute.

Strengthen your legs. Put one loop of the connected rubber bands around each ankle. With

knees bent and feet on the floor, straighten and bend each leg for one minute. Make it tougher by doing quick pulses, bending your knee slightly without letting your foot touch the floor. See how many reps you can do in a minute.

For another challenge, start with feet on the floor. One leg at a time, lift the knee to the chest, keeping your back straight.

If using the bands is too difficult, start without them and build up.

Flexibility

Ease low-back tightness with the Seated Pigeon.

For this yoga move, Hall says, sit straight in your chair. Rest your right ankle over your left thigh. Straighten your spine and lean forward until you feel a stretch in your lower back. Hold for 10 deep breaths through the nose. Switch sides.

Stretch shoulders and neck. For this, known as Eagle Arms, sit straight in your chair. Extend your arms at shoulder height in front of your body. Bend your elbows up; put your left elbow in the crook of your right arm. Without letting your elbows drop, put your right hand on your left shoulder, and your left hand on your right shoulder, "like you're giving yourself a hug," Hall says. Hold for 10 breaths. Repeat on the other side.

For a deeper stretch, take your hands off your shoulders and touch your palms.

"This opens the shoulders, upper back and neck," she says.

"It's good for the person who sits at a computer, hunched over a keyboard."

WEEKEND: FAMILY

By AISHA SULTAN

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

The disruption in the pink aisle is about to become an all-out revolution.

A newly minted female engineer and one in the making have developed a successor to last season's groundbreaking GoldieBlox, a line of engineering kits geared toward girls.

Supriya Hobbs and Janna Eaves, both 21, met through the engineering program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. They have come up with a line of dolls that they hope will change the way girls think about pretend play and, more importantly, their place in the world.

Their Miss Possible line of dolls combines the appeal of American Girl with the skill development of GoldieBlox.

These young women have left Barbie so far behind.

The first doll will be the childhood version of Marie Curie, the Nobel Prize-winning chemist and physicist whose research led to breakthroughs on radioactivity. The second in the production line would be Bessie Coleman, the first African-American female aviator and first American to hold an international pilot's license. The third woman they've chosen in their doll lineup is Ada Lovelace, known as the world's first computer programmer for writing early instructions for Charles Babbage's 19th Century calculating machines.

Each doll will come with a smartphone app with a set of experiments and activities the child can do in the spirit of the doll's namesake. The Marie Curie app will have instructions on making a compass, creating a chemical reaction with Elmer's glue and experimenting with magnetism. It's like a digital science kit with materials typically found in the house. The app also delves into the biography of the woman.

"There's something really power-

ful [about] having a real person behind it," Hobbs said. "This is one woman. This is the story of her life."

Eaves and Hobbs researched and found a factory in China to produce their dolls, which they will sell for \$45 apiece. They sought crowdfunding through Indiegogo.com and exceeded their goal of \$75,000 — the amount they needed to fund the factory's minimum order of 5,000 dolls — by more than \$10,000. Financial backers of the monthlong campaign will get to pick which real-life female hero to immortalize in doll form after Lovelace. They decided on a childhood representation of these women because they wanted the focus to be on the extraordinary accomplishments, not on the depiction of the body.



Eaves



Hobbs

tion through viral marketing videos, won airtime during the Super Bowl and raised enough money from donors to begin to stake space in the toy aisles alongside princesses and put it in the hands of future engineers.

Hobbs reached out to them and said the company helped mentor Hobbs and Eaves.

"I was surprised how much they were willing to help us," Hobbs said.

"We're all sort of working toward the same thing. That makes it more of a collabora-

tion than a competition."

Miss Possible has a five-person team of college-age women working on all aspects of their idea, from the design to web development and marketing. Hobbs has been working 50 to 60 hours a week on the plans since graduating this summer, even though she already has a job lined up starting next month.

Hobbs and Eaves know that following their specialty in college will put them in the minority in their fields, and that's what they hope to change. Even though women represent half of all college-educated workers in this country, they made up just 28 percent of science and engineering workers in 2010.

Both of Hobbs' parents are chemists, and Eaves' are engineers. The young women never learned to doubt their own abilities in male-dominated STEM fields. They want their dolls to spark that same confidence in the girls who might one day play with them.

"If you look at Marie Curie, you can't say, 'I can't be like that.' You can. Because she was," Hobbs said.

Below: The first doll in the Miss Possible collection will be the childhood version of Marie Curie, the Nobel Prize-winning chemist and physicist whose research led to breakthroughs on radioactivity.

MCT

Encouraging girls to dream

BIG

Educational dolls inspired by female role models



SPOUSE CALLS

Contentment isn't a place, it's a decision

She met her military husband in her hometown. They fell in love, got married, moved a couple of times for training assignments and had two babies along the way. When I met her, she was at the last of those temporary duty stations, but it couldn't be temporary enough for her. She had her sights set on her husband's next assignment — a large city on the East Coast — and she had her current location in her cross-hairs. Her rapid-fire criticisms of the small Midwest town expressed disbelief that such a backwater could even stay on the map.

"Why would anyone live in a place like this? Haven't they heard of Chicago and New York?" she asked me. "I have got to get out of here."

Her list of grievances was long: The neighborhood was unpleasant, the weather miserable. She didn't know anyone, and there was nothing for her and her two small children to do. To top it all off, she had car trouble and there was no dealership in town that could service the type of vehicle she was driving. In fact, that was the only thing keeping her from putting the little town in her rearview mirror that day. She wanted to head for the shiny new assignment while her husband finished his training.

If she'd had her way, she would have been headed down the interstate instead of standing in the coffee shop, talking to me while she waited for her latte.

We crossed paths by chance. The town is the same one where my mom lives. It's the place where my dad finished his military career, and where I graduated from high school. It was the hometown where I met my own military husband, where we fell in love and got married. Then we moved a few times and had three babies along the way, and moved a few times more.

This young wife and I had never met before that day, but I knew the look on her face, the desperation in her voice. I've heard it in the voices of other military spouses. I've seen that look in the mirror too, because I've been in a few lonely new towns.

Our military family has lived a lot of places. For us, I told her, the friendships have been more important than the locations. She wasn't buying it.

The people in the coffee shop were kind and welcoming and helped entertain her two little boys while we talked.

The owner of the jewelry store next door had provided a temporary fix for her car when she was stranded in their parking lot, but she had made up her mind.

"I told my husband that if he ever gets stationed here for a regular assignment, I'll live somewhere else," she said.

"How long have you been here?" I asked.

"Two days."

I told her I had been there too, in a strange place with little children and no friends. It was hard, I agreed, but it got better. She was sure her situation was different. This could never work for her. So when her latte was ready, I helped her get her kids out to her car and wished her well.

After she drove away, I wished I'd said something more effective. I wanted to tell her that a month or two in a small town is a small sacrifice to keep her family together. I wanted to convince her to stay long enough to make a few friends, to give this place a chance. Not because a few more weeks in this little town would change her life, but because she would be one step closer to learning that contentment isn't a place, it's a decision.

The unofficial motto of military spouses is, "Bloom where you're planted," but that sounds easy. It's not. Perhaps it should be, "Plant yourself, so you can bloom." Blooming doesn't come first. Blooming is the result of cultivation. We don't arrive at a new place and begin effortlessly sprouting rosebuds.

Blooming takes time and effort. Getting there is messy, frustrating and sometimes lonely. The process doesn't work the same way every time. The soil in some places is more arable than others. When we're done, we might have dirty nails and sore muscles, but we can dig in and plant ourselves almost anywhere. Then we can bloom.

Terri Barnes is the author of "Spouse Calls: Messages From a Military Life." Contact her at spousecalls@aol.com or at stripes.com/go/spousecalls.



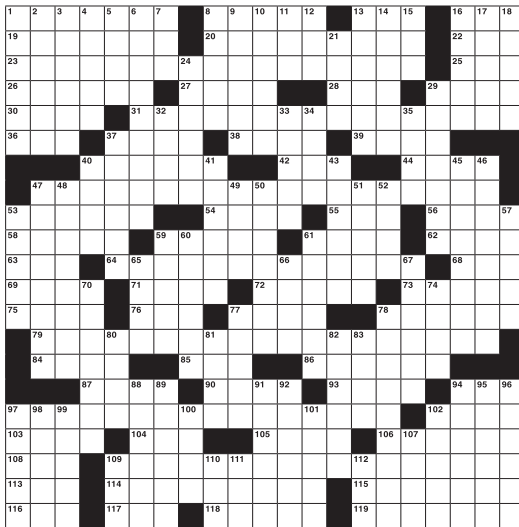
Terri Barnes

WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

HEARD AT THE MOVIES BY JOEL FAGLIANO / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**
- 1 Halle Berry was once runner-up for this
- 8 Foreheads
- 13 Hanes competitor
- 16 Identify on Facebook
- 19 Ties up
- 20 French filmmaker who led the Cinéma Pur movement
- 22 When Earth Day is celebrated: Abbr.
- 23 Jewish bread/Played, as a violin/Throw (1950)
- 25 Tan-line producer, maybe
- 26 Ring material
- 27 ___ cloud (source of comets)
- 28 Org. in "The Sopranos"
- 29 Spend time in idle reverie
- 30 One quarter of a quartet
- 31 Toyota rival/Measure of power/Insult (1954)
- 36 Parisian possessive
- 37 Sound units
- 38 Strip club fixture
- 39 Anagram — and synonym — of 71-Across
- 40 Peace in the Middle East
- 42 Forbes competitor
- 44 Ca, Ce, Co or Cu
- 47 Reside/Savage/ Puzzle (out)/Wash (2013)
- 53 Greatly desired objects
- 54 Any of the "South Park" characters
- 55 Strike concern
- 59 Number by a door?
- 61 Islamic spirit
- 62 Inner: Prefix
- 63 Dating-service datum
- 64 Hooligan/Strange/ Silo contents (1972)
- 68 Only non-U.S. M.L.B. team: Abbr.
- 69 Some cameras, for short
- 71 See 39-Across
- 72 Like a milquetoast
- 73 Complete reversal
- 75 Comedian Kevin
- 76 Seed
- 77 Obama follower?
- 78 Sad news
- 79 Wildlife protector/Difficult/Hotel door feature (1980)
- 84 Have the lead
- 85 "Chances ___"
- 86 Load bearer?
- 87 Meno opener
- 90 California-roll ingredient
- 93 "That's what she ___"
- 94 Road block?
- 97 "In what way?"/Like overcooked steak/Bosses'/European capital on a gulf (1985)
- 102 Get whipped
- 103 British author who wrote "The Old Devils"
- 104 "___ man"
- 105 Oklahoma tribe
- 106 Brave group, informally?
- 108 Kind of garden
- 109 What you get when you say 23-, 31-, 47-, 64-, 79- or 97-Across out loud
- 113 Meringue ingredient
- 114 P.O.W.'s, e.g.
- 115 Rush-hour subway rider, facetiously
- 116 ___ Islas Filipinas
- 117 "Inglorious Bastards" org.
- 118 ___ nous
- 119 Holes in shoes
- DOWN**
- 1 Shopping malls on Black Friday, e.g.
- 2 Scarf down
- 3 Some wide receiver routes
- 4 Round of shots
- 5 Campus attended by Elle in "Legally Blonde"
- 6 Beach homes?
- 7 Kind of blond
- 8 Ponder, with "on"
- 9 Prepare to put back in the fridge, say
- 10 Pair of socks?
- 11 Unite
- 12 Duke, e.g.: Abbr.
- 13 Start of a children's rhyme
- 14 Make more intense, as colors
- 15 Rap mogul, briefly
- 16 Prohibited
- 17 Where a golf fairyway transitions into a green
- 18 President after Johnson
- 21 One half of a 10-Down
- 24 Growing art form?
- 29 Fred Flintstone's boss
- 32 Minnesota's St. ___ College
- 33 Strange
- 34 Heavenly bodies?
- 35 Mood
- 37 Plebiscite, e.g.
- 40 Número de Mexican states that border the U.S.
- 41 Subway systems
- 43 Figures on some Valentine's Day cards
- 45 Ultimate
- 46 "Careless Hands" crooner
- 47 Narcs enforce them
- 48 Marsh rodent
- 49 Cross
- 50 It was satirized in "Dr. Strangelove"
- 51 Kind of blond
- 52 Last word of an annual holiday song
- 53 Grind
- 57 "S.N.L." producer Michaels
- 59 Bring up to speed
- 60 First name in mysteries
- 61 Rachel's firstborn, in the Bible
- 65 Build up
- 66 Alecto, Megaera or Tisiphone
- 67 Made haste
- 70 Some shipping brief
- 74 One of the superheroes in 2012's "The Avengers"
- 77 Former Oldsmobile model
- 78 Road starting at the Porta Capena
- 80 Film villain with prosthetic hands
- 81 Cheeky
- 82 Less puzzling
- 83 Kindle purchase, in brief
- 88 "Daniel in the Lions' Den" artist
- 89 Discharges
- 91 Long-legged shorebird
- 92 Surpass
- 94 "Happy Days" girl
- 95 Green light
- 96 96 for Big Ben, heighwise
- 97 Eye shade
- 98 Symbol for ohms
- 99 Common bar food
- 100 Kind of mail
- 101 Get up
- 102 Three-time French Open champ
- 107 Euros replaced them
- 109 Work for Plutarch, informally
- 110 Not post-
- 111 Hog's Head, in the Harry Potter books
- 112 Tip of the tongue?

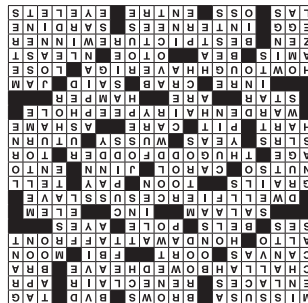


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RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



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ABC

The new cast of "Dancing with the Stars" was announced on "Good Morning America" on Thursday. The celebrity cast, in alphabetical order, consists of Jonathan Bennett, Tommy Chong, Randy Couture, Betsey Johnson, Lolo Jones, Bethany Mota, Janel Parrish, Alfonso Ribeiro, Sadie Robertson, Antonio Sabato Jr., Tavis Smiley, Lea Thompson and Michael Waltrip. The two-hour season premiere of the show is Sept. 16 on AFN-Spectrum.

Let's dance!

Lea Thompson, Tommy Chong among 'DWTS' celebrities

The Associated Press

Actress Lea Thompson, "Duck Dynasty" diva Sadie Robertson and NASCAR driver Michael Waltrip are making tracks for the new season of "Dancing with the Stars."

ABC on Thursday announced the 13 contestants for its fall round of the dancing

competition. They also include talk-show host Tavis Smiley, "Pretty Little Liars" star Janel Parrish, Olympic athlete Lolo Jones, actor Antonio Sabato Jr. and fashion designer Betsey Johnson.

Other amateur hoofers include comedy veteran Tommy Chong, YouTube star Bethany Mota, Ultimate Fighting champ

Randy Couture, "Mean Girls" star Jonathan Bennett and actor-dancer Alfonso Ribeiro.

The new lineup was unveiled on "Good Morning America."

The 19th season of "Dancing" premieres in the U.S. on Sept. 15 and on AFN-Spectrum a day later. Tom Bergeron and Erin Andrews return as co-hosts.

Hanks among Kennedy Center honorees

It's a rare honor for an artist to receive accolades from the U.S. president, let alone have him sing one of your tunes.

Now Al Green can claim both, knowing that President Barack Obama is a fan. Green is among five artists receiving this year's Kennedy Center Honors, the national awards for influencing American culture through the arts, the center announced Thursday.

Tom Hanks, Sting, Lily Tomlin and ballerina Patricia McBride will also receive the honor. They will be saluted by top entertainers in a performance Dec. 7 and a reception at the White House.

Drake gets 8 BET Hip-Hop Awards nods

For the first time, Drake tops nominees for the BET Hip-Hop Awards.

In a statement to The Associated Press, BET said Thursday that Drake received the most nominations with eight for the ninth annual awards show. It airs Oct. 14. Last year, the Canadian rapper and singer took home four awards, including the People's Champ Award.

Drake's 2013 chart-topping album, "Nothing Was the Same," had several hits from "Hold On, We're Going Home" with Majid Jordan to "Started from the Bottom." Rap veteran Snoop Dogg returns as host of the show, which will be taped Sept. 20 at the Boisfeuillet Jones Atlanta Civic Center. Z. Pharell and Future each scored six nominations. Nicki Minaj, Rich Homie Quan and YG earned five nods apiece.



Drake

Other news

■ Actress Rosalind Wiseman and Republican Party media operative Nicole Wallace are joining ABC's daytime chat show "The View."

■ David Cassidy has pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of driving while intoxicated in upstate New York. Sentencing was set for Nov. 5.

■ Quentin Tarantino is moving forward with "The Hateful Eight." The Weinstein Co. says it will distribute the filmmaker's latest project — a post-Civil War Western — next year in the largest 70mm release in 20 years.

■ Sony Pictures announced Wednesday that George Clooney will co-produce and direct the film version of "Hack Attack," reporter Nick Davies' book about the British phone hacking scandal.

■ Alicia Keys is preparing for a delivery at the end of the year: her second baby. The Grammy winner says she and husband, producer-rapper Swizz Beatz, know the sex of the baby, but that she's "not sharing."

From The Associated Press

Maya Angelou's work mixed with hip-hop for album

By MESFIN FEKADU
The Associated Press

Maya Angelou's iconic words and lyrics will blend with hip-hop beats for a new album called "Caged Bird Songs."

Shawn Rivera, the lead singer of R&B group Az Yet, and RoccaStarr, who co-wrote Chris Brown's "Fine China," produced the 13-song set, to be released through Smooch Music on Nov. 4.

The album — the title taken from Angelou's classic 1969 book "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" — is one of the last projects Angelou completed before she died in May, her grandson said in an interview Tuesday.

"Grandma loved it from the beginning," Calin A. Johnson said of the album's concept. "These guys were inspired by grandma's work, which many people are, and felt like giving it a different medium of delivery to make it more obtainable to a larger group of people."

Rivera and RoccaStarr started working on the album before Angelou knew of it. Johnson, who is in charge of Angelou's estate with his father Guy B. Johnson, said once she was aware, she completely backed the project, which was recorded at her North Carolina



AP

One of poet Maya Angelou's last projects, an album of her works set to music, will be released Nov. 4.

home. Some of the songs use previously recorded Angelou vocals, while others were recorded specifically for the project.

Johnson said Angelou's initial reaction to the songs was similar to when she first saw her own Facebook page: "She just laughed."

"She loved it and was excited to hear more about what they wanted to do," he said of the album. "She had a lot of energy around it." Angelou won three Grammys for her spoken-word albums. She previously

released a calypso album and collaborated with Ashford & Simpson for 1996's "Been Found." She also was featured on Common's 2011 album, "The Dreamer/The Believer."

Johnson said his grandmother was a fan of hip-hop music. "She saw (hip-hop) as this generation's way of speaking and conveying a message," said Johnson, adding that Angelou had "great stories about interactions with Tupac (Shakur)."

Johnson said he hopes the album will connect Angelou's work with younger generations. It resounded with his own 13-year-old and 16-year-old children, he said.

"I don't know that they ever have picked up a book of poetry without it being assigned by either me or their school," he said of his children. "To hear somebody that is so famous for her poetry and her message, and then set to some music that you can enjoy, definitely feels like this is something that can continue her reach through generations."

Johnson and his father founded Caged Bird Legacy to launch future Angelou projects.

"There are other things coming out," he said. "You'll see a lot of other things come out with her name. ... And these are all projects that she had out there in the works at various different levels of completion."

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OPINION

La. overseas voters have extra hurdle

By BOB CAREY,
 SAM WRIGHT
 AND JOSE FLYNN-BROWN

It is election season again, which means military voters get to struggle through voter registration forms, mail delays and concerns about whether their ballots will return in time to be counted. But in Louisiana, the unique electoral process poses specific issues for military voters. And that state's elections are even more important as the race for U.S. senator may determine which political party controls the Senate. If that election is close, the approximately 17,600 active military personnel from Louisiana, at least 4,400 of whom are likely overseas, may be the deciding factor. For these servicemembers, here's what you need to know.

Louisiana uses a primary system affectionately called the "Cajun Primary." In the rest of the country, voters will vote on Nov. 4 for candidates that already won primaries. But in Louisiana, the candidates from all the parties will be on a single ballot. Eligible voters can vote in this election for a candidate of any party, just like any other general election. And, after tallying the vote, if one candidate wins more than 50 percent of the total vote, he or she is declared the winner. This election, in essence, serves as both the primary and the general election.

But if no candidate achieves more than 50 percent of the vote, a run-off election will be held on Dec. 6. This year, there will almost certainly be a run-off for U.S. senator because there are several strong candi-

dates on the Nov. 4 ballot.

The problem with that system, however, is that it doesn't provide enough time for overseas military personnel to get the run-off election ballot and return it in time for the ballot to be counted. In 2008, National Defense Committee, Reserve Officers Association, and a broad group of military voter advocacy organizations coalesced to form the Alliance for Military and Overseas Voting Reform. This Alliance successfully fought to enact the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act (MOVE Act), which requires States to send absentee ballots to military voters at least 45 days before the election. But if there is a run-off election in Louisiana, the Dec. 6 date is only 32 days after the Nov. 4 election — not enough days to get new ballots out to military voters in time to return them.

Fortunately, working with the Federal Voting Assistance Program in the Department of Defense, Louisiana officials came up with a workable solution to ensure the state's military voters still have adequate opportunity to participate in the run-off election: the Instant Run-Off Ballot, or IRRB.

This year, Louisiana military and overseas voters will receive two ballots for the Nov. 4 election: one white, one green. The white ballot is the "Cajun Primary" ballot to vote for a single candidate in each race, and the green ballot is for any run-off election that is needed. On the green ballot, voters rank the candidates by number according to their preference for which candidate should win that election. The remaining candidate that the voter ranked

highest will get that voter's vote if there's a run-off election.

With the Louisiana "Cajun Primary" Nov. 4, Louisiana election officials will send out both the white and green ballots by Sept. 20. If they haven't already, Louisiana military voters should request their absentee ballots as soon as possible by filling out the Federal Post Card Application; or better yet, go online to www.FVAP.gov to fill it out.

Additionally, Louisiana set up its own online voter registration portal and absentee ballot application portal that military voters can use, and may be able to file their registrations and applications online without having to send by mail.

Our men and women in uniform sacrifice so much to keep us safe and secure. We must ensure that their right to vote is protected. But, it is a two-way street: Louisiana must ensure that ballots are sent overseas in compliance with federal law and servicemembers need to make the effort to vote.

Bob Carey is the former director of the Federal Voting Assistance Program, a captain in the Navy Reserve, and executive director of the Naval Reserve Officers Association, based in Alexandria, Va., that works to protect the individual rights of servicemembers. Sam Wright is a retired captain in the Navy Reserve Judge Advocate General's Corps and director of the Service Members Law Center at the Reserve Officers Association. Josh Flynn-Brown is an attorney who has worked with ensuring MOVE Act compliance and is a legal fellow at the National Defense Committee. None of the opinions expressed here are necessarily those of the U.S. Navy or the Department of Defense, and are the personal opinions of the authors.

US needs to get serious about defense spending

Every dollar spent on health benefits for retirees is a dollar we can't spend training and equipping men and women to deal with the Islamic State, Putin and other threats.

shrinks relative to its economy, more and more of it is destined to purposes that have little, or nothing, to do with deterring or, if necessary, winning wars in the here and now.

The CBO reported in January that the Defense Department's health care costs will rise from \$49 billion in 2014 to \$70 billion in 2028 (in inflation-adjusted dollars). That is an increase of about 40 percent in real terms; as a result, health care will account for 11 percent of the defense budget in 2028, up from an already astounding 9 percent today.

The manspreading of this spending growth, the CBO found, is the increasingly generous benefits Congress has bestowed on military retirees — not the cost of taking care of active-duty servicemembers and their families.

As the CBO put the matter, "In a fiscal climate in which the department's overall budget can increase only slowly, continued rapid growth in military health care costs could force the department to spend in other areas, such as force structure, military readiness, and weapons modernization." Less bureaucratically: Every dollar spent on health benefits for retirees is a dollar we can't spend training and equipping men and women to deal with the Islamic State, Putin and other threats.

A similar logic applies to military pensions, a \$31 billion item in fiscal 2014 pro-

jected to grow to \$62 billion by 2024.

As a raft of commissions and experts have amply documented, retiree benefits are vastly oversold as a recruitment tool, in part because you only qualify after 20 years of service, a condition that only a minority of the military fulfill. What's more, many working-age retirees get deeply subsidized military health care even though they could qualify for insurance through their jobs; after they join Medicare, Uncle Sam buys retirees the equivalent of Medicaid insurance.

Modest co-payment increases and other tweaks to the health program could save billions, but Congress dares not cross the military retiree lobby.

The Ryan-Murray budget agreement enacted at the end of 2013 did trim 1 percent point from military pension costs-of-living increases, saving \$6 billion over 10 years. Tiny as it is, the change doesn't go into effect until December 2015, and powerful retiree organizations are vowing to undo it before then.

The truth is that military retiree health care and pensions are badly in need of reform, as President Barack Obama, to his credit, has noted in repeated budget proposals to Congress. But lawmakers of both parties resist, in deference to the lobbies — and to the detriment of our nation's defense capabilities.

Meanwhile, we borrow. Putin's aggression, and the rise of the Islamic State, test more than the democratic West's ability to stand up to spend the defense dollars; they test our ability to overcome parochial interests and set priorities. In short, to be serious.

Europe's failure, so far, to confront these new menaces effectively is often attributed to its economic malaise, which, in turn, reflects its convoluted and indecisive government — its lack of seriousness. All true. But are we so different?

Charles Lane is an editorial page editor for The Washington Post.

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Tyrants always hate reporters Anniston (Ala.) Star

Twelve years ago, the beheading of The Wall Street Journal's Daniel Pearl by al-Qaida jihadists in Pakistan reaffirmed the dangers of reporting from the world's most dangerous places.

Caught up in the turbulent times just after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Pearl died at the hands of radical Islamists committed to violence against America and its closest allies. The ghastly manner in which he perished — a videotaped beheading — made it all the worse.

Twelve years later, two more American journalists have suffered similar fates — not by al-Qaida, but by the Islamic State, a nebulous group that claims to have established an Islamic caliphate in parts of Syria and Iraq. James Foley, a reporter and videographer captured in Syria in 2012, was beheaded in August in retaliation for U.S. airstrikes against Islamic State sites. On Tuesday, the world learned that another American journalist, Steven Sotloff, had also been beheaded.

Journalists have died in dangerous places for as long as newspapers and war correspondents have existed. Some left behind spectacular examples of reporting and photography — think Ernie Pyle, the Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist killed in the Pacific during World War II in 1945. Others have been lost to history, a statistic for those who document the risks journalists face in war zones take.

The Committee to Protect Journalists says 1,073 journalists have died, worldwide, since 1992. The deadliest places for journalists coincide with nations corrupted by war and unrest, and those whose governments turn a blind eye toward press freedoms.

The Islamic State governs neither a nation, state or recognized boundary. Bruce Riedel, a former CIA and White House official now at the Brookings Institution, told The Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel that the Islamic State "is far more difficult to deal with" than Iran or the militant group Hezbollah.

The group "wants to terrorize Americans," it's not really interested in deals. We remind those who say journalists shouldn't be in these places of extreme violence that despots, warlords and jihadists would act free of detailed scrutiny if this reporting was silenced.

All for civil political awareness The Augusta (Ga.) Chronicle

It was a little, incongruous shall we say, for the country's first-term vice president, Joe Biden, to say, as he did at a rally this past weekend, "It's time to take America back!"

From whom, exactly? He and his running mate have been in power since 2009. Their party also held sway over both houses of Congress for the first two years, and it still controls the powerful Senate.

How utterly bizarre for even a gaffe-prone sitting vice president to succumb to this kind of misuse, exhorting others to "take America back" when he already, essentially, "has" it. But such are the verbal acrobatics we get into when venturing into divisive rhetoric.

Alas, this kind of fire-breathing has come to be expected in the political silly season, which officially kicks off with the relative peace of Labor Day. Is there any escaping it?

One would hope so, for it is precisely this kind of circular firing squad that has



America in the doldrums. Most Americans, we would guess, are dog tired of the various political factions shooting at each other rhetorically, assassinating each other's character and otherwise completely ignoring the country's problems. ...

We need to do something radical in the Information Age. We need to inform ourselves. We need to decide what we believe. And we need to take action. Support your preferred candidates. Discuss the issues civilly with friends. Keep up on current events. And, of course, cast a knowledgeable vote. Don't take the country back. Just recognize it's there for you — even if you haven't been there for it.

Take tobacco ban beyond CVS (Louisville, Ky.) Courier-Journal

Kicking the tobacco habit just got easier, especially if you shop at CVS drug stores. The retail chain said earlier this year that it would remove tobacco products from its 7,700 stores by Oct. 1. Officials beat their own deadline by almost a month by ending sales of tobacco products Wednesday.

When CVS announced its plans, company leaders said the sales of tobacco, and its harmful and widespread effects on people, contradicted the company's broader mission in delivering health care — the pharmacies also have about 900 walk-in clinics. Appropriately there will also be a name change for the company with the new emblem: CVS Health.

In addition to dropping tobacco, CVS also offers smoking cessation programs to its customers. USA Today reports the programs include "an assessment of the smoker's 'readiness to quit,' education, medication support to help curb the desire to use tobacco and coaching to help people stay motivated and avoid relapses."

The move is a fascinating curve in a business arc, and it also demonstrates responsible corporate citizenship that other companies should emulate.

As the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have noted, cigarette smoking harms almost every organ in the body. It causes almost 500,000 deaths in the nation each year — and it's responsible for 10 times as many premature deaths than all the deaths in all the wars in U.S. history. It causes 90 percent of all lung cancer deaths (more than 150,000 each year; there are about 224,210 new cases of lung cancer every year. ... Way to go, CVS.

Ex-Im Bank's work has value (San Antonio) Express News

The end of September will be do or die for the U.S. Export-Import Bank.

Congress must do or the Ex-Im Bank will die and, along with it, crucial help for Texas companies whose lifeline is the Export of goods. Also gone will be good Texas jobs.

A recent Express-News article by business writer David Hendricks spelled it out: The Ex-Im Bank, which provides loans and loan guarantees to foreign companies that want to buy U.S. goods, will end if not reauthorized by Sept. 30.

The tea party has targeted the agency as a purveyor of corporate welfare. A Texas congressman, Republican Rep. Jeb Hensarling, chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, criticizes Ex-Im for that and for alleged fraud.

Hendricks noted that there have been some publicized cases of fraud in Ex-Im transactions. It is a rare government program, however, that doesn't have such incidents. If the programs provide a critical service, this means they should be cleaned and tightened up, not eliminated. The Ex-Im Bank provides such a service.

Between 2007 and 2014, the bank helped 1,338 Texas exporters sell \$21 billion in goods. Its loans returned \$1.07 billion to the agency in fiscal year 2013, and its loan default rate has been just above 0.2 percent per quarter.

This indicates need — and benefit. Yes, private banks can also provide such services, but at terms likely to be more expensive. That means less growth for U.S. and Texas export companies. Other countries have programs similar to what the Ex-Im Bank provides. ...

Many business groups and others, including Texas Gov. Rick Perry, have been pushing back. The U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform has launched an investigation of possible corruption in the agency, focusing on four employees who left Ex-Im. Even if this committee uncovers abuses, the need must be weighed against the harm that would be done if Ex-Im isn't reauthorized.

Russia threat demands action The Wall Street Journal

This week's NATO summit in Wales is being billed as one of the most important in its 65-year history, and with good reason. The Atlantic alliance needs to prove it is serious about deterring the no longer unthinkable prospect of another major war in Europe.

Last year you think we overstate, on Monday the Italian newspaper La Repubblica quoted Vladimir Putin telling European Commission President José Manuel Barroso that "if I want, I can take Kiev in two weeks" — a statement the Kremlin did not deny (though it did denounce the leak). Putin is talking openly about "New Russia," with specific mention of the cities of Kharkiv, Luhansk and Donetsk in eastern Ukraine as well as Odessa on the Black Sea. Such talk may be bluster, but the stealthy seizure of Crimea was supposed to be unthinkable only a few months ago. So was Russia's invasion of eastern Ukraine last month. The problem with calling some-

thing unthinkable is that it tends to dull the thinking needed to keep it that way. Europeans also thought the world wars of the last century were unthinkable right up until they broke out.

Wars happen when aggressors detect the lack of will to stop them. After Russia's 2008 invasion of Georgia, we warned that "Ukraine, which has been pushing Russia to merge its Black Sea fleet's headquarters, could be next." We also noted that "the (NATO) alliance needs to respond forcefully." It didn't. Here we are.

The good news is that NATO's institutional leaders, civilian and military, have been awake to reality for some time. Anders Fogh Rasmussen, the alliance's energetic secretary-general, was warning well before Russia's invasion of Ukraine that NATO's European members needed to spend a great deal more on defense. "We must shift the argument from the cost of defense to the cost of no defense," Rasmussen said last October.

Air Force Gen. Philip Breedlove, NATO supreme commander, has also been clear in describing the nature and sophistication of Russia's military moves. "Surprise, deception and strategic ambiguity have been awake to reality for some time. In Ukraine," the general wrote in The Wall Street Journal on July 16, adding that "this strategy, quite simply, has significant implications for Europe's future security."

Far from clear, however, is whether Western political leaders share this sense of urgency.

As for the ostensible leader of the Free World, President Barack Obama is busy downplaying the threats to world order by saying, as he did on Monday, that "the world has always been messy" and "the new global disorder is something 'we're just noticing now because of social media.' Social media aren't sending those Russian tanks toward Donetsk.

The only way to deter such military aggression is with a show of comparable military and political resolve. NATO states — including the U.S. — will have to reverse the trend of cuts to military spending.

No justification to detain Bae The Seattle Times

North Korea's surprising decision over the weekend to let CNN and The Associated Press interview three imprisoned Americans is a strong sign its leaders are ready to talk.

This latest gesture renews hope for the release of Barmah Washington state resident Kenneth Bae. Bae, North Korea's longest-held American prisoner since the Korean War, was arrested in November 2012 while guiding tourists across the border.

The former tour guide and devout Christian appeared visibly thinner in a video broadcast worldwide on Tuesday. Two other Americans await formal trials, though they say they do not know the exact charges against them.

Under the watch of a North Korean prison guard, Bae said he is being treated humanely, but eight hours of labor, six days a week, is degrading his health.

Columbia University professor Charles K. Armstrong, a North Korea expert, says this could be an opening to ease tensions and secure the release of all three Americans on humanitarian grounds.

"Particularly in the case of Kenneth Bae, the worst treatment for the longest time," Armstrong says. "It's important to try to get his release, which doesn't mean the U.S. needs to do anything egregious like deposit money into the North Koreans' bank account."

In a statement Monday, Bae's sister, Bae Hyeon, is talking to Kim Jong Un to have mercy. "It is in your power to release my brother. You could do it today. Please do so."

Tight-lipped U.S. State Department officials say they are working behind the scenes to help. Their offer to send an envoy stands. North Korea should take them up on it.

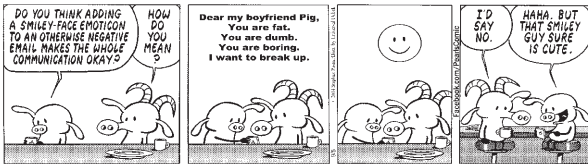
Frazz



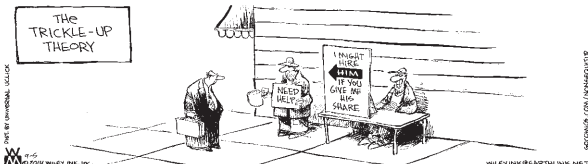
Dilbert



Pearls Before



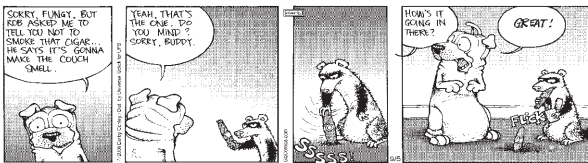
In Sequitur



Candorville



It Fuzzy



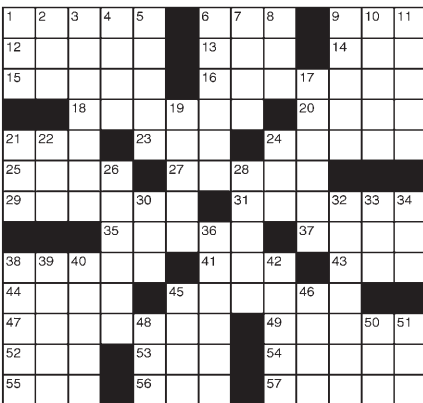
Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Wooden peg 57 Composer's output

DOWN

- | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 12 Jung's inner self | 1 Mid-June | 32 Williams' partner |
| 13 — Baba | 2 honoree | 33 Earsthille acorn |
| 14 Ostrich's kin | 2 Inseparable | 34 "Science Guy" Bill |
| 15 Jeans material | 3 Royal name | 36 Comic strip components |
| 16 Steinway rival | 4 Eastern potentate | 38 Underground network |
| 18 Unfunny plays | 5 Actor Lorenzo | 39 Put one's two cents in |
| 20 Nevada city | 6 Pool room? | 40 Reinforced, in a way |
| 21 "— a date!" | 7 "Oh, woe" | 42 Dog bane |
| 23 Junior | 8 Wire measure | 45 Out of control |
| 24 Traffic cone | 9 Gem | 46 Ticklish Muppet |
| 25 Old woman's home? | 10 — acid | 48 Bear (Sp.) |
| 27 Squander | 11 Not know when to shut up | 50 Early bird? |
| 29 Dark blue green | 17 Laundromat lineup | 51 "Help!" |
| | 18 Yardwork need | |
| | 21 Doctrine | |
| | 22 "Honor — Father ..." | |

Answer to Previous Puzzle



9-5

CRYPTOQUIP

GOQM EZTJLP RQJRKO YLM

Z H J L S V J B M U S O B M U P

PGBESKF, SOZS'P VOEBMBSOKF

IOKOHYBSF IOKOYBSF.

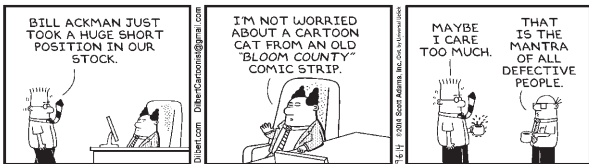
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IT'S AN AWFUL SHAME THAT SOME PEOPLE KNOW NOTHING ABOUT THE FAMOUS EGYPTIAN BOY-KING. TUT TUT!

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals T

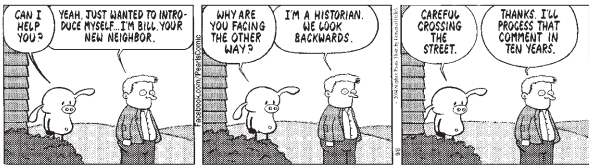
Frazz



Dilbert



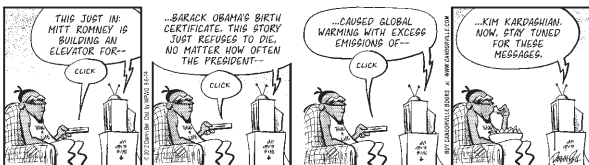
Pearls Before Swine



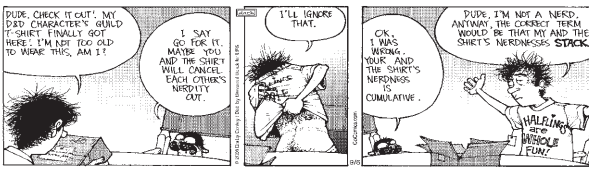
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



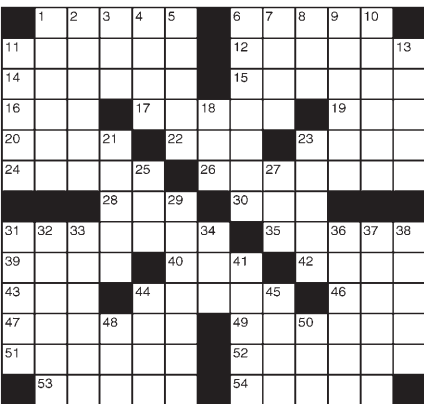
Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



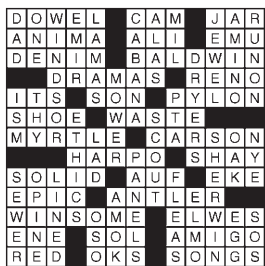
ACROSS

- 1 Burn with steam
- 6 No longer cangorous
- 11 Cultivating tool
- 12 Wall Street buys
- 14 "Seinfeld" role
- 15 Canal zone
- 16 PC linking system
- 17 Spritlike
- 19 Plead
- 20 Leave out
- 22 Sailor
- 23 Trig function
- 24 Wonder Woman accessory
- 26 Give up hope
- 28 Swiss mountain
- 30 Conk out
- 31 New parents' need
- 35 Take five
- 39 Mischievous tykes
- 40 Arctic seabird
- 42 Guy
- 43 Gorilla
- 44 "On the shore — seen ..."
- 46 Male swan
- 47 DEA agents
- 49 Tertiary Period epoch
- 51 Blame
- 52 Wryly funny
- 53 Floated down-stream, in a way
- 54 Salamanders

DOWN

- 1 Deli meat
- 2 Skulls
- 3 "Entourage" role
- 4 Unrivaled
- 5 Lived
- 6 Hoped
- 7 Compared to
- 8 Proscribe
- 9 Lawrence's place
- 10 Sanaa denizen
- 11 Slave of old Greece
- 13 More judicious
- 18 Craze
- 21 Weapons of mouse destruction
- 23 Race
- 25 Ready beverage
- 27 Round Table address
- 29 Commended
- 31 Mum of William and Harry
- 32 Affect
- 33 Insight
- 34 Total
- 36 Glowing with light
- 37 Handsome lad
- 38 Mediterranean sailing ship
- 41 Comedian Robert
- 44 Meds measure
- 45 Bygone times
- 48 Newsroom newbie
- 50 Intimide

Answer to Previous Puzzle



9-6

CRYPTOQUIP

UPM WUTYP OVUZO O IOJCROP-
OJCX RWXCJZACUJ'X TOJRUZX
JUIOWAYX: "XYWXYR OWM
XYWXYRVRPRCB."

Yesterday's Cryptquip: WHEN FAMOUS PEOPLE RUN ABOUT DOING THINGS SWIFTLY, THAT'S DEFINITELY CELEBRITY CELERITY.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: U equals O



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BUSINESS/WEATHER

CVS is renamed, halts tobacco sales

By TOM MURPHY

The Associated Press

As CVS sharpens its focus on customer health, the nation's second-largest drugstore chain will tweak its corporate name and stop the sale of tobacco nearly a month sooner than planned.

CVS Caremark said it will now be known as CVS Health, effective immediately. The signs on its roughly 7,700 drugstores won't change, so the change may not

register with shoppers.

However, those customers will see a big change when they check out. The cigars and cigarettes that used to fill the shelves behind store cash registers have been replaced with nicotine gum and signs urging visitors to kick the tobacco habit.

A store in downtown Indianapolis also stocked free tobacco quit packs where cigarettes used to sit. The red-and-white boxes, nearly the size of cigarette packs, con-

tain coupons, a card showing how much a smoker can save by quitting and a booklet with Sudoku and other games to distract someone fighting the urge to smoke.

CVS and other drugstores have delved deeper into customer health in recent years, in part to serve the aging baby boom generation and the millions of uninsured people who are expected to gain coverage under the federal health care overhaul. While competitors Walgreen Co. and Rite Aid

Corp. still sell tobacco, they've all started offering more health care products and added walk-in clinics to their stores while expanding the care they provide.

Drugstores now offer an array of vaccinations and flu shots, and many of their clinics can help monitor chronic illnesses like diabetes or high blood pressure.

"We're doing more and more to extend the front lines of health care," CVS CEO Larry Merlo said.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Sept. 5)	\$1.3464
Dollar buys (Sept. 5)	90.7427
British pound (Sept. 5)	\$1.68
Japanese yen (Sept. 5)	102.00
South Korean won (Sept. 5)	992.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.6421/0.6990
Canada (dollar)	1.0844
China (Yuan)	6.1388
Denmark (Krone)	5.1801
Egypt (Pound)	7.1525
Euro	\$1.3011/0.7686
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7502
Hungary (Forint)	240.35
Israel (Shekel)	3.5861
Japan (Yen)	102.00
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2854
Norway (Krone)	6.2399
Philippines (Peso)	43.49
Poland (Zloty)	3.32
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7507
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2526
South Korea (Won)	1,019.00
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9270
Thailand (Baht)	32.01
Turkey (New Lira)	1.1536

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, etc.), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.00
Federal funds market rate	0.09
3-month bill	0.03
30-year bond	3.14

EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$3.762	\$3.941	\$4.106	\$4.117
Change in price	+0.5 cents	+0.3 cents	0.1 cents	-0.7 cents
Netherlands	--	\$4.747	\$5.026	\$4.869
Change in price	--	+1.6 cents	+1.4 cents	-0.7 cents
U.K.	--	\$3.911	\$4.082	\$4.087
Change in price	--	+0.3 cents	no change	-0.7 cents
Azores	--	--	\$4.052	--
Change in price	--	--	+0.3 cents	--
France	--	\$3.838	\$4.026	\$4.240
Change in price	--	-14.2 cents	-15.4 cents	-16.4 cents
Turkey	--	--	\$4.219	\$4.808*
Change in price	--	--	-4.4 cents	-18.5 cents
Italy	\$4.088	--	--	\$4.164
Change in price	-9.2 cents	--	--	-9.3 cents

PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	--	\$3.789	--	\$3.799
Change in price	--	-1.0 cents	--	-1.0 cents
Okunawa	\$3.599	--	--	\$3.799
Change in price	no change	--	--	-1.0 cents
South Korea	\$3.589	--	\$3.929	\$3.939
Change in price	+1.0 cents	--	no change	-1.0 cents
Guam	\$3.579**	\$3.740	\$3.919	--
Change in price	+1.0 cents	no change	no change	--

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composite 4,572.57

Standard & Poor's 500 **-1.56**
2,000.72

Russell 2000 **-7.27**
1,172.20

WEATHER OUTLOOK



HIGH SCHOOL: DODDS PACIFIC FOOTBALL

Contenders for title form a big line in D-I

By DAVE ORNAUER
Stars and Stripes

If the 2014 Division I football season had an advertising slogan, it might read something like "Far East Football: Powered by big, beefy behemoths."

Across the northwest Pacific, size is abundant among the five teams vying for top honors come the D-I title game on Nov. 8.

From tackle to tackle, the lines average 218 at Yokota to 245 at Seoul American and 250 at Kinrick. A similar story is told on Okinawa, home to the teams that played for the title last year, runner-up Kadena and champion Kubasaki.

Start with Kinrick, whose middle three linemen, Alakai Warford, Will Walker and Chris Deibel, go 280, 275 and 270. They'll serve as the main escorts for DODDS Japan rushing record-holder Drey Paylor, who a year ago became the second Pacific back to rush for 2,000 yards.

The fact that we have in many minds the best running back in the Pacific and a solid offensive line makes me feel secure as we arrange the pieces of the puzzle," fifth-year Red Devils coach Dan Jolley said.

Kubasaki bid farewell to outstanding rusher Jarrett Mitchell, who exited with 3,970 yards. Four others vital to the Dragons title effort are also gone: Tyson Butler, Steven Hunt, Kareem King and DeQuan Alderman.

Winston Maxwell fills the shoes vacated by Mitchell, and is as speedy and elusive, just a few inches shorter. DeCurtis Davis takes over under center for Alderman. But the iron will of the departed core five will be tough to replace, coach Fred Bales said.

"You enjoy the kids you have. No two years are alike," he said. "We have a chance to be as good as last year as a team and that's what we're working hard to do."

Yokota has the tough task of replacing tailbacks J.J. Henderson and Nick Pedersen, who have transferred to Florida and Louisiana. Coach Tim Pujol says the Panthers plan to go with a "tailback by committee" approach behind a line led by sophomore center Christian Sonnenberg.

They face a rough opening schedule, hosting Kadena, then traveling to Seoul American and



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Kinrick junior Drey Paylor became just the second running back in Pacific history to rush for more than 2,000 yards in a season last fall.

Kubasaki in back-to-back weeks. "You'd like to play those games later in the season, but that's the way the schedule fell," Pujol said.

Kadena hopes to take the last step toward a Pacific-record fourth D-I title with a similarly large line and four-year running-back starter Justin Sego.

The big question facing the Panthers is replacing defensive standouts David Padilla and Gage Bongo at linebacker and edge pass rusher Preston Harris. Coach Sergio Mendoza says he has four linebackers he trusts.

Edge pass rusher is no question at all in Seoul, where coach Jim Davis has Xavier McDaniel, a 265-pound junior transfer from South Carolina, and Santi Buckingham at 240 on a line that averages 245 across.

"I feel like Tim [Pujol] a couple of years ago when he had that line he knew was coming back," Davis said. His line will escort for senior quarterback Max Woodley and running back Myles Haynes, among others.

ornauer.dave@stripes.com

D-I team capsules

Kadena Panthers
Last year: 6-2 overall, 3-2 in D-I, lost Far East championship game.

Coach: Sergio Mendoza, ninth season.
Returning players: 18. **Starters:** 8.
Key performers: Justin Sego, Sr., RB-DB-KR; Garry Mitchell, Sr., RB; Jamario Harris, Jr.; QB; Dominic Santilli, Jr.; FB. **Strengths:** Best line that the Panthers have had since the Speed, Inc. days of Shariff Coleman and Thomas McDonald. Great summer conditioning sessions. Maturity and experience. Players coming in from other sports who've not played football before but are expected to help. **Weaknesses:** Most reliable starting linebackers D.J. Padilla, Gage Bongo. Mendoza says he has four he can trust, just a question of how well they play. **Overview:** Contending. Panthers have unfinished business, making things right after losing Division I title game 34-31 in overtime to Kubasaki. Must demonstrate the ability to close things out.

Kinrick Red Devils
Last year: 6-5, 2-3 in D-I.

Coach: Dan Jolley, fifth season.
Returning players: 20. **Starters:** 6.
Key performers: Drey Paylor, Jr., RB-DB; Greg Bacon, Sr., RB-DB; Gage Callert, Sr., RB-LB; Tarick Mitchell, Jr., RB-RB; Chris Deibel, Jr., OL-DL; Alakai Warford, Sr., C-DL; Tyaki Martin, Sr., OL-DL; Kyle O'Brien, Sr., RB-DB.

Key performers: Jabari Johnson, Jr., WR-DB; Will Walker, Jr., L; Chris Morris, Jr., L; Dustin Thompson, Sr., L; Dwynne Lynn, So., OL-DL; Nick Galeagher, Jr., DB; Joshua Thompson, Jr., QB-DB.

Strengths: Balance across the board, offense and defense. **Weaknesses:** Not to speak of.

Overview: Contending. Contending. Contending. Jolley and the Red Devils broke through a season ago, winning DODDS Japan, the school's first title of any kind in 14 years, and he believes the team has hit its stride. "We're just the next step toward a school-first Far East Division I championship."

Korakido Dragons
Last year: 7-2 overall, 5-2 in D-I, won Far East championship.

Coach: Fred Bales, 10th season.
Returning players: 12. **Starters:** 8.
Key performers: DeCurtis Davis, Jr.; QB; Josiah Allen, Sr., OL-DL; Joshua Davis, Jr., OL-DL; Joshua Davis, Jr., OL-DL; Jacob Green, So., QB-CB; Winston Maxwell, Sr., RB; So. Green, Sr., TE-OL-DL; Christian Fernandez, Jr., OL-DL; Deaven Curtis, Jr., CB; Isiah Johnson, Jr., WR; Preston Snyder, Jr., RB; Javon Jourmain, So., WR.

Strengths: Veteran in the line, maturity, championship demeanor. **Drawbacks:** Replacing Jarrett Mitchell, school's career rushing leader in Far East playoff era, other veterans who led Dragons to D-I title last year.

Overview: Reloading. Contending. If Maxwell can fill the giant shoes of Mitchell, if he can find suitable replacements for graduated stars such as Tyson Butler and Kareem King, a return to the D-I title game may be possible.

Seoul American Falcons
Last year: 1-6 overall, 0-4 in D-I.

Coach: Jim Davis, third season.
Returning players: 8. **Starters:** 6.
Key performers: Santi Buckingham, Jr., RB; Tony Woodley, Jr., QB; Myles Haynes, Jr., RB-DB; David Davidson, Jr., TE-LB; Carl Christian Sonnenberg, So., L; Jordan Tahjai Winn, Jr., L; Xavier McDaniel, Sr., L; transfer from South Carolina; Eben Shelton, Jr., WR (transfer from Iowa).

Strengths: Both lines boast plenty of beef for the first time in Davis' tenure. **Drawbacks:** Few to speak of.

Overview: Reloading. Contending. If all the parts come together, stay on the field long enough, and everything falls the way Davis hopes.

Yokota Warriors
Last year: 4-5 overall, 2-2 in D-I.

Coach: Tim Pujol, 16th season.
Returning players: 13. **Starters:** 10.
Key performers: Marcus Henagan, Jr., QB; Tony Henderson, Jr., QB; Jamarin Harvey, Jr.; Chris Hill, Sr.; L; Emilio Saucedo, So., L; Michael Sonnenberg, So., L; Jordan Thompson, Jr., TE; Noah Macias, So., S; L; Michael Sonnenberg, So., S; L; Jamarin Harvey, Jr., RB-KR.

Strengths: Good football IQ, good attitude, good locker room, good chemistry. **Drawbacks:** Lack of depth.

Overview: Rebuilding, and hoping to build on strong finish to last season when they won three of four.

Japan Division II

All three teams face 'a tall order'

By DAVE ORNAUER
Stars and Stripes

One team is experiencing varsity football for the first time since 2003. Another is trying to make do with little size and going with a speed game. The third faces questions about who'll be handed the keys to the offense.

Those are the narratives for start-up M.C. Perry and two teams that have combined for five Far East Division II titles, Zama and Edgemoor.

For the first time since the Far East playoffs began in 2005, there are three teams vying for host rights to the D-II title game, scheduled for Nov. 7 and to be hosted by the top team in the division in DODDS Japan.

That team will host the best DODDS Korea D-II team.

"It's always good to expand the league, to increase competition," longtime Zama coach Steven Merrell said. "It's good for the athletes to have those opportunities."

Perry coach Frank Macias welcomes back 20 runners, 14 of whom started non-varsity games. Jared Davis, a senior, is the lone holdover who's been with Macias from when the program revived in 2012.

The Samurai play their first game Sept. 13 against Edgemoor at Camp Zama. Perry went 7-20 from 2000-2003, then the program suspended operations.

The biggest challenge: "Getting the kids to play and believe they can win," said Macias, in his third year at the helm. "We're so isolated and small. It's tough to not only have a program but be successful and get the kids to believe it."

Zama faces a difficult task in replacing departed quarterback Nick Zeagler. It will likely come down to Justin Brown, Kyle Merrell and Joseph Atkinson for the job.

"It's a tall order" replacing somebody like Zeagler, the elder Merrell said. "But it's kind of like in DODDS, you have to be ready to move forward. The next guy needs to be ready to go."

Like Zama, Edgemoor is short on

numbers; neither school will field a junior varsity. And the Eagles are also short on size and are welcoming their fourth coaching staff in six years.

Bill Schofield transferred from Bamberg; he'll handle administration for the team. Doing the heavy coaching lifting will be Misawa Jets base team coach Jeremy Sanders and his offensive coordinator, Fred Ellis, a former Yokota High School quarterback in the 1990s.

"We have some really fast players," said Schofield. "If we do anything at all, it will be with speed."

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D-II team capsules

Edgemoor Eagles
Last year: 3-6 overall, 2-3 in Division II, lost D-II championship game.

Coach: Bill Schofield and Jeremy Sanders, first season.
Returning players: 10. **Starters:** 4.

Key performers: Daniel Lovett, Sr., WR-CB-S (transferred from New Mexico); Shawn Robinson, Jr., QB; Kyle Peterson, So., QB; David Warren, Jr., L-LB; Nick Cumfitt, Sr., QB-KR; Sky Phillips, So., WR; Dorjan Dillon, Jr., TE-DE.

Strengths: Speed, experienced veterans. **Weaknesses:** Low on numbers.

Overview: Rebuilding. Schofield hoping for more numbers when school opens Monday. Developing the offensive line a primary concern.

M.C. Perry Samurai
Last year: Played a non-varsity schedule the past two seasons.

Coach: Frank Macias, first season (coached both non-varsity seasons). **Returning players:** 20. **Starters:** 14.

Key performers: Jared Davis, Sr.; FB; Tristan Gaudin, Jr.; G; Caleb Ricaferris, So.; FB; Mick Carreiro, Jr.; QB-LB; Raul Bolduc, Jr.; DL; Garrett Macias, Jr.; QB-Zack Brown, Jr., RB.

Strengths: Backfield, most skills positions play. Macias says he's had a hard time getting the offense to play hard and fast.

Weaknesses: Lack of varsity football experience, lack of receiver height.

Overview: Startup. The Samurai are back after an 11-year hiatus preceded by an eight-year run from 1996-2003, half as a youth services team (16-12, including a Japan-best 7-1 in 1999), half as a high school program (7-20). Macias says the Samurai will simply go, play hard and win what happens.

Zama Trojans
Last year: 3-6 overall, 2-3 in D-II.

Coach: Steven Merrell, eighth season. **Returning players:** 11. **Starters:** 9.

Key performers: Justin Brown, Jr.; QB-all-purpose back; RB; Ryui Van Deussen, Jr.; TE-DE; Kevin Groce, Jr.; TE-DE; Kyle Merrell, Sr.; QB; Joseph Atkinson, Sr.; TE-DB; Jacob Martin, Jr., L.

Strengths: Good athleticism, good experience, solid football IQ.

Weaknesses: Depth in the line.

Overview: Rebuilding, but especially the seniors and veterans have a good grasp on the concepts of what Merrell and the Trojans are trying to do.

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STARS AND STRIPES

LOOKING FOR: DODS-EUROPE FOOTBALL

Team capsules

Division II Central

AFNRTH LIONS

Last year: 1-4 (no postseason).
Coach: Greg Blankenship (14th season).

Returning talent: Seven players, three starters.

Projected top players: TE/DE Logan Hartsch (Sr.); RB/LB Mike Graves (Sr.); RB/LB Spencer Brobst (Sr.); WR/DB Darel Marshall (Sr.); QB/DB Isaiah Higgs (Soph.); WR/K Naudicus Karich (Sr.).

Key games: Sept. 4 at Rota; Oct. 11 vs. Baumholder.

Bad news: The schedule couldn't have come out much more poorly for the Lions: when they're not facing German behemoths Ansbach and Bitburg, they're on the road to Aviano, Italy, and Rota, Spain.

Good news: The Lions have a deep core of sure-handed receivers, a strong pass game and a promising quarterback.

ANSBACH COUGARS

Last year: 5-0 (lost semifinal).
Coach: Marcus George (14th season).

Returning talent: 12 players, five starters.

Projected top players: RB/LB Dorian Jones (Sr.); QB/Backup Ward (Sr.); WR/DB Brandon Piccinini (Jr.); RB/LB Roger Brownell (Sr.); OL/LB Nick Abel (Jr.).

Key games: Sept. 13 vs. Naples; Sept. 20 at Aviano.

Bad news: Things look pretty sunny in Ansbach, but the Cougars lack seven defensive starters, but that's not bad by DODS standards.

Good news: Returning touchdown machine Jones leads a strong group of offensive Cougars eager to resume last year's abruptly-ended championship.

BAUMHOLDER BUCS

Last year: 2-2 (lost semifinal).
Coach: BJ Walker (fourth season).

Returning talent: Three players, two starters.

Projected top players: RB/LB Anthony Aviano (OL/OL/WR Small); QB Cameron Moore; TE/DE Chad Martinez.

Key games: Sept. 6 at Bitburg; Oct. 11 at AFNRTH.

Bad news: With an almost entirely new roster, the Buc's took a few steps forward from unproven underclassmen last year's disappointing season.

Good news: Youth, inexperience and a lack of continuity aren't excuses at all—yet. They're countered by DODS-Europe Division II programs. The Bucs have athletes and will be competitive.

BITBURG BARONS

Last year: 2-2 (lost semifinal).
Coach: Mike Laue (11th season).

Returning talent: 11 players, eight starters.

Projected top players: RB Curtis Wilson (Sr.); QB Jonathan Rott (Sr.); WR/DB Antonio (Sr.); OL/DB Chad Newell (Sr.); OL/DB Joseph Foster (Sr.); QB Dominic Ferneling (Sr.).

Key games: Sept. 20 at Ansbach; Oct. 4 at AFNRTH.

Bad news: The Barons saw their nearly half-decade reign as Division II European champions come to a stunning end in last year's semifinals to the Hohenfels Tigers. While that might serve as a source of motivation, it might have also dented the program's confidence a little bit.

Good news: Bitburg's era of dominance was built largely around power offensive and defensive line play. The return of seniors Santiago, Newell and Foster ensure this year's edition will enjoy that same advantage in the trenches.

ROTA ADMIRALS

Last year: 4-5 (no postseason).
Coach: Ben Anderson (second season).

Returning talent: 10 players, four starters.

Projected top players: QB Estevean Garrido (Sr.); RB/LB Jonas Camacho (Sr.); RB/LB Leticia Leticia (Sr.); WR/DB Matthew Grammes (Sr.).

Key games: Sept. 27 at Bitburg; Oct. 4 vs. AFNRTH.

Bad news: The former Division III powerhouse Rota has a coach who's been in charge (the distance separating them from the other four teams is a 279 at the end of this August—and that's not a typo) and a roster that's very generally more students to coaches than from equates to more athletes and better teams.



COACH: MARCUS GEORGE (14TH SEASON).
COACH: RASHAD GALLON (FIRST SEASON).

Returning talent: 10 players, eight starters.

Projected top players: TE/DE Pavel Karamshin (Sr.); OL/DB Chad Hartley Jr. (Sr.); QB/LB Fritz Sheroeno (Jr.); RB/OL Chris Dufresne (Jr.); RB/DB Adarius Gallon (Sr.).

Key games: Sept. 13 vs. Hohenfels; Oct. 11 vs. Menzhit Hill/Woodham.

Good news: New head coach and former assistant Gallon has stressed positivity and optimism in preseason workouts, an appropriate tactic for a program looking to shake a streak of losing seasons.

Bad news: Those good vibes will have to survive a season-opening visit from the reigning European champ and a long-haul trip to Rota a week later.

International School of Brussels Raiders

Last year: 3-2 (lost quarterfinal).
Coach: Will Vreugdenhil (ninth season).

Returning talent: Six players, three starters.

Projected top players: RB John Kontos (Sr.); WR/LB J. Anderson (Sr.); RB/LB J. Hestemans (Jr.).

Key games: Sept. 6 vs. Aviano; Oct. 11 at SHAPE.

Good news: The Raiders emerged as the DODS-Europe Division II explosive squads last fall, scoring 40 or more points in four out of five regular-season games. Backfield pair Kontos and Hestemans could keep the scoreboard ticking all season.

Bad news: ISB is all but starting over in terms of roster-building. The quick DODS-Europe schedule doesn't have much padding for young teams finding their way.

Menzhit Hill/Woodham

Last year: Woodham 4-2; Menzhit Hill 2-4 (Independent League).

Coaches: Danny Kitch (second season at Woodham); Pete Resnick (26th season at Menzhit Hill).

Returning talent: 18 players, 13 starters.

Projected top players: OL/DB Jonathan Brugman (Sr.); RB/LB Andrew Potter (Sr.); QB Armstrong (Sr.); OL Jordan McCabe (Jr.); WR/DB Josh Penny (Jr.).

Key games: Sept. 13 at SHAPE; Oct. 11 at Alcornbury.

Bad news: The UK teams were also rans in last year's short-lived Independent League last fall, and will spend this fall adapting to the merged roster from nine-man to 11-man football at a higher competitive level.

Good news: The combined squad features solid coaching, a wealth of returning talent and a two-way lineman ready to do upper-division damage in Brugman's second season.

SHAPE Spartans

Last year: 1-2 (lost state title game).
Coach: Jay Bodine (first year).

Returning talent: 4 players, 1 starter.

Projected top players: QB Noah Parker; RB Noah Bradsher; LB Jose Luis Delgado; OL/LB David Hestemans (Sr.).

Key games: Sept. 20 at Naples; Oct. 11 vs. Hohenfels.

Bad news: The Spartans serve as 2014's annual reminder of the fleeting nature of DODS-Europe contention. The SHAPE stars that came within a few snaps of a European title have since been replaced by unknown commodities.

Good news: Bodine is a seasoned veteran who has spent 10 years of his 34-year coaching career in DODS; if nothing else, the Spartans are complete.

MICHAEL S. DARNELL/Stars and Stripes

Division II South

AVIANO SAINTS

Last year: 1-4 (no postseason).
Coach: Rick Dahlstrom (ninth season).

Returning talent: Six players, six starters.

Projected top players: OL Germaine Sessa (Jr.); OL Manny Gamba (Jr.); DB Jamal Thomas (Sr.); DB Matt Lister (Sr.); QB Marcus Brown (Sr.).

Key games: Sept. 13 vs. Vicenza; Sept. 20 at Hohenfels.

Bad news: The Saints will have to work around size and speed disadvantages to keep pace with their three new regional rivals, all playoff teams last year.

Good news: Aviano dodged a winless campaign last fall with an upset over playoff-bound Italian rival Naples. Stalwart lineman Sessa and standout DB Thomas and Brown will try to carry that momentum into a new season.

Hohenfels Tigers

Last year: 3-2 (European champion).
Coach: Larry Daffin (second season).

Returning talent: 13 players, nine starters.

Projected top players: RB/DB David Vidovic (Sr.); QB/DB Clayton Pinheiro (Sr.); RB/LB Gabriel Penn (Sr.); WR/DB Marcus Dudley (Sr.); OL/DB Justin Starfield (OL/DB Brett Wade).

Key games: Oct. 4 vs. Bitburg; Oct. 11 at Vicenza.

Bad news: Upstarts no longer, the champion Tigers have graduated from the DODS-Europe Division II playoffs to sumo the same hanger that fueled last year's magical title run.

Good news: Vidovic is the most dangerous offensive threat in recent DODS-Europe history. The returning core has kept the best on the continent. Daffin's even-keeled style funnels his players' emotions in positive directions. The Tigers will be very good; the question is, will anyone else be better?

NAPLES WILDCATS

Last year: 2-3 (lost quarterfinal).
Coach: Steve Altstiel (third season).

Returning talent: 18 players, eight starters.

Projected top players: OL/DB Zane Zimmerman; QB/LB Ty'Rick Riggins (Soph.); DE/TE Mathai Calims (Sr.); WR/DB Cameron Copeland (Sr.); RB/AR Christopher Greene (Fr.).

Key games: Sept. 27 at Hohenfels; Oct. 4 vs. Vicenza.

Bad news: Despite the impressive haul of returning players, Altstiel reports a handful of costly losses due to preseason 2014 season and PCS moves. WR/DB ber road games at Ansbach and Hohenfels emerged roster from nine-man to 11-man football at a higher competitive level.

Good news: Teams that find success in the DODS-Europe Division II playoffs are proven hands and fresh faces. Naples has the former in two-way roughnecks Zimmerman and Calims and the latter in Riggins and Greene.

VICENZA COUGARS

Last year: 3-2 (lost quarterfinal).
Coach: Larry Daffin (second season).

Returning talent: 11 players, five starters.

Projected top players: QB Mario Molina (Sr.); OL/DB Marshall Perfetti (Sr.); OL/LB Brian Hestemans (Sr.); WR/DB Max Merzard (Jr.); LB Canaan York (Jr.).

Key games: Sept. 27 at Naples; Oct. 11 vs. Hohenfels.

Bad news: The Cougars chased a one-win 2013 season with an above-.500 regular season and playoff berth last fall.

Good news: The Cougars have a program around to sustain that momentum. Daffin is a proven hand and a veteran who is poised for a start-making season and a strong showing for preseason camp fills the roster with talent and depth.

Division II

Hohenfels, Bitburg lead host of title contenders

By GREGORY BROOME

Stars and Stripes

So who's the favorite?

The 2014 DODS-Europe Division II football season opens Saturday with a light slate of three games. Aviano will travel north to International School of Brussels, Ansbach will visit AFNRTH and Baumholder will make the short trip to Bitburg.

The season kicks up momentum the following Saturday, Sept. 13, with 12 teams in action. The playoffs lurk just over a month later; the title game is set for Nov. 1.

On the eve of the season opener, it's hard to identify a clear frontrunner.

The immediately obvious candidate is Hohenfels, the defending champion. The upstart Tigers pulled off a remarkable postseason run last fall fueled, appropriately, by repeated remarkable runs from All-Europe running back and Stars and Stripes football Athlete of the Year David Vidovic.

The high-powered Hohenfels offense scored 38 points in all three of its playoff games, including the ouster of reigning dynasty Bitburg in the semifinals and a stunning championship-game comeback to edge SHAPE.

But that stirring finish glossed over what was an uneven season overall for the Tigers. Hohenfels entered its regular-season finale mired in a two-game losing streak and at risk of a losing season before a 38-22 win over Vicenza salvaged its title hopes.

In short, the Tigers aren't unbeatable. All they are heavily reliant on consistent brilliance from Vidovic to succeed, an issue that leaves Hohenfels vulnerable to defenses now more focused than ever on derailing the most dangerous ball-carrier in recent DODS-Europe memory.

The steady hand of coach Larry Daffin will be needed to nurture the offensive line that protects the team's featured back and encourage the team's skill guys to make plays.

Foremost among the rivals is Bitburg, the juggernaut that was stomping to what might have been a fifth consecutive Division II European championship when maulled by the unexpectedly fierce Tigers in a 38-28 semifinal loss.

Head coach Mike Laue and his team are predictably serene about

last year's disappointment even as they plan a furious effort to start a new championship streak. The program trusts its fundamentals and expects them to yield continued success; though last year's results weren't optimal, the process remains sound.

DODS-Europe football fans won't have to wait for the postseason to see a Bitburg-Hohenfels rematch. The two are scheduled to meet Oct. 4 on the home field of the reigning Tigers.

While the old guard and the new one fight over turf, however, the fray also includes 11 contenders determined to find their own foothold. An early favorite to emerge from that group is Ansbach.

The Cougars put together an undefeated regular season in 2013 that included a win over Hohenfels. A seemingly safe path to a title shot hit an obstacle, however, with a 23-22 upset loss to SHAPE in the semifinals.

Head coach Marcus George brings back a group of 12 returnees that includes All-Star running back Dorian Jones and quarterback Bailey Ward. If the team's depth and defense round in form, Ansbach will be an extremely tough out.

Runner-up SHAPE, meanwhile, is starting all over again after losing all but four players from the team that came within minutes of a European title last season.

Inexperienced playoff teams Vicenza, Baumholder and International School of Brussels are in a similar predicament. Naples returns 18 players and eight starters, but head coach Steve Altstiel said the Wildcats' overall turnout is down from years past and positional depth might be a major issue.

While the schools remain large in the same, DODS-Europe has adjusted the way it'll be organized into regions. Last year's two-region system, with four teams each from north and south advancing to the postseason, has been replaced by a three-region arrangement of north, central and south.

DODS-Europe athletic director Karen Seadore said the organization will use a "point system" to determine which teams will reach the playoffs; details of that system have yet to be finalized.

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College GameDay



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

Player to watch

Cody Kessler QB | Southern Cal

Kessler had some shaky moments last season before coming on strong late in the year. Kessler picked up new coach Steve Sarkisian's offense quickly and had a fantastic start to his junior year by guiding the Trojans to one touchdown after another in a rout over Fresno State. First game: 394 yards, four TDs in 52-13 win over Fresno State. Next up: At No. 13 Stanford.



RYAN KANG/AP

Oregon quarterback Marcus Mariota, left, hands off to running back Thomas Tyner in last week's 62-13 win against South Dakota. This week, the No. 3 Ducks face a bigger challenge in No. 7 Michigan State. Oregon showed glimpses in the season opener of the "three-headed monster" option of running backs Tyner, Byron Marshall, and Royce Freeman. Together the three accounted for 412 yards of offense and four touchdowns last week. The Spartans finished second in the country last year in overall defense, and Oregon's quick offense will put Michigan State to the test on Saturday in Eugene, Ore.

THE POWER CONFERENCES

ACC			
Atlantic Division			
Conf.	W	L	All W L
Louisville	0	0	0 0
Syracuse	0	0	0 0
Boston College	0	0	0 0
N.C. State	0	0	0 0
Florida State	0	0	0 0
Clemson	0	0	0 0
Wake Forest	0	0	0 0
Coastal Division			
Conf.	W	L	All W L
Georgia Tech.	0	0	0 0
Pittsburgh	0	0	0 0
Duke	0	0	0 0
North Carolina	0	0	0 0
Virginia Tech.	0	0	0 0
Virginia	0	0	0 0
Miami	0	0	0 0

Game of the week: Virginia Tech at Ohio State. This matchup of marquee programs is the best on a light ACC schedule that includes six games against FCS opponents. A Hokies defense that held William & Mary to nine points and 76 yards rushing will look to rattle Ohio State redshirt freshman J.T. Barrett, who will make his first home start in place of Braxton Miller. **Inside the numbers:** Three transfers started last week, and all put up big numbers in their debuts with their schools. North Carolina State's Jacoby Brissett (319 total yards), Boston College's Tyler Murphy (291) and Virginia Tech's Michael Brewer (272) each led their teams to wins.

Player to watch: Thomas Sirk. Overlooked in Duke's season-opening rout of Elon was the new short-yardage specialist who rushed for two late touchdowns and looked impressive in the Blue Devils' fourth-and-short packages.

Big Ten			
East			
Conf.	W	L	All W L
Michigan St.	0	0	0 0
Indiana	0	0	0 0
Maryland	0	0	0 0
Michigan	0	0	0 0
Ohio State	0	0	0 0
x-Penn State	0	0	0 0
Rutgers	0	0	0 0
West			
Conf.	W	L	All W L
Illinois	0	0	0 0
Iowa	0	0	0 0
Minnesota	0	0	0 0
Nebraska	0	0	0 0
Purdue	0	0	0 0
Northwestern	0	0	0 0
Wisconsin	0	0	0 0

Game of the week: No. 7 Michigan State at No. 3 Oregon, Saturday. The Spartans are coming off a Rose Bowl victory, but in some ways a win in raucous Autzen Stadium may grab even more attention. The high-flying Ducks will test the Spartans' stingy defense like no other opponent they face this season. Last year, Oregon was second in total offense and fourth in scoring offense.

Inside the numbers: Nebraska racked up 784 yards of offense against Florida Atlantic in the season opener, the most by a Big Ten school in a game since Minnesota had 832 yard back in 1905.

Player to watch: Michigan State QB Connor Cook. The Spartans' defense gets all the attention, but Cook has quietly emerged as a dependable playmaker. He was almost perfect in the season-opener against Jacksonville State, completing 12 of 13 passes for 285 yards and three TDs.

Big 12			
Conf.	W	L	All W L
Kansas	0	0	0 0
Baylor	0	0	0 0
Kansas State	0	0	0 0
Oklahoma	0	0	0 0
TCU	0	0	0 0
Texas Tech.	0	0	0 0
x-Texas	0	0	0 0
West Virginia	0	0	0 0
Oklahoma State	0	0	0 0
Iowa State	0	0	0 0

Game of the week: No. 20 Kansas State at Iowa State. The season's first game that counts in the conference standings. Iowa State opened with a 34-14 loss to North Dakota State, the FCS champion that also beat Kansas State in the 2013 season opener. K-State is playing its earliest league opener since being in the very first Big 12 game the opening week of the 1996 season. The last time Iowa State played a Big 12 game so early was the second game in 2002, also its last win in a conference opener.

Inside the numbers: Texas Tech QB Davis Webb completed 39 of 52 passes for 452 yards with four TDs in a tougher-than-expected 42-35 win over Central Arkansas.

Player to watch: Baylor defensive line. The defensive front accounted for seven of the Bears' school record-tying nine sacks in the season-opening 45-0 win over SMU, which was held to only 67 total yards on 64 plays.

Pac-12			
North			
Conf.	W	L	All W L
California	0	0	0 0
Oregon	0	0	0 0
Oregon State	0	0	0 0
Stanford	0	0	0 0
Washington	0	0	0 0
Washington State	0	0	0 0
South			
Conf.	W	L	All W L
Arizona	0	0	0 0
Arizona State	0	0	0 0
UCLA	0	0	0 0
USC	0	0	0 0
Utah	0	0	0 0
Colorado	0	0	0 0

Game of the week: No. 14 USC at No. 13 Stanford. This is a huge game for No. 14 USC, which does not play No. 3 Oregon this season. It's also a big one for No. 13 Stanford — a 45-0 winner over UC Davis in its opener — which does play the Ducks. It's also a game USC and Stanford would probably prefer to play later in the season. "I don't think either of us would choose this," Stanford coach David Shaw said, "but it's an early test and it doesn't spell the whole — what's going to happen the entire season."

Inside the numbers: In Southern Cal's 52-13 win over Fresno State last week, the Trojans ran a Pac-12 record 105 plays.

Player to watch: Taylor Kelly, Arizona State. Since winning a tight QB battle, he's racked up school records and wins in the desert. First game: 238 yards, TD in first half of 45-14 win over Weber State. Next up for the No. 17 Sun Devils: New Mexico.

SERVICE ACADEMIES



Air Force at Wyoming
Last week: Beat Nicholls State 44-16
Next game: At Georgia State, Sept. 13



Army vs. Buffalo
Last week: Did not play
Next game: At Stanford, Sept. 13



Navy at Temple
Last week: Lost to Ohio State, 34-17, at Baltimore
Next game: At Texas State, Sept. 13

AP TOP 25 SCHEDULE

Saturday's games

- No. 1 Florida State vs. The Citadel
- No. 2 Alabama vs. FAU
- No. 3 Oregon vs. No. 7 Michigan State
- No. 4 Oklahoma at Tulsa
- No. 5 Auburn vs. San Jose State
- No. 8 Ohio State vs. Virginia Tech
- No. 9 Texas A&M vs. Lamar
- No. 10 Baylor vs. Northwestern State
- No. 11 UCLA vs. Memphis
- No. 12 LSU vs. Sam Houston State
- No. 14 Southern Cal at No. 13 Stanford
- No. 15 Mississippi at Vanderbilt
- No. 16 Notre Dame vs. Michigan
- No. 17 Arizona State at New Mexico
- No. 18 Wisconsin vs. Western Illinois
- No. 19 Nebraska vs. Kansas State
- No. 20 Kansas State at Iowa State
- No. 21 North Carolina vs. San Diego State
- No. 21 South Carolina vs. East Carolina
- No. 23 Clemson vs. South Carolina
- No. 24 Missouri at Toledo
- No. 25 Louisville vs. Murray State

SEC			
East			
Conf.	W	L	All W L
Florida	0	0	0 0
Georgia	0	0	0 0
Kentucky	0	0	0 0
Missouri	0	0	0 0
Tennessee	0	0	0 0
Vanderbilt	0	0	0 0
South Carolina	0	0	0 0
West			
Conf.	W	L	All W L
Auburn	0	0	0 0
Texas A&M	0	0	0 0
Alabama	0	0	0 0
LSU	0	0	0 0
Mississippi	0	0	0 0
Mississippi State	0	0	0 0
Arkansas	0	0	0 0

Game of the week: No. 15 Mississippi vs. Vanderbilt at LP Field in Nashville, Tenn. Though the Rebels will be favored at the NFL Titans' home field on Saturday, Vanderbilt has won five of the last seven in the series. Ole Miss struggled early before pulling away in a season-opening 35-13 win over Boise State. A convincing win over Vanderbilt would help justify the program's highest ranking since 2009. **Inside the numbers:** Tennessee played 21 true freshmen in a season-opening 38-7 victory over Utah State. It was a school record for a season opener and the highest total of any FBS program in the first week of 2014. **Player to watch: Florida QB Jeff Driskel.** This week's game vs. Eastern Michigan represents Driskel's first since he broke his right leg last September. Florida's chances of rebounding from a 4-8 season are largely dependent on his ability to make a successful comeback.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Spartans face tough task with high-flying Ducks

By NOAH TRISTER
The Associated Press

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Pat Narduzzi will have enough to worry about when Michigan State takes on Oregon this weekend, so the talkative defensive coordinator dismissed the idea that jet lag or the heat might play a significant role in the outcome.

"You can say food's a factor, the airplane's a factor. We can name all kinds of factors, if you let it be a factor," Narduzzi said. "The factor is that offense. That's what we're looking at, so that's the only factor we care about."

Narduzzi has helped turn Michigan State into one of the nation's top defensive teams over the last few years, but Saturday's game at No. 3 Oregon might be his biggest test yet.

The matchup between the seventh-ranked Spartans and the high-scoring Ducks is perhaps the most intriguing nonconference game on this year's college football schedule — and Oregon's quick-paced offense will put plenty of pressure on Narduzzi's talented unit.

"They're a lot faster than we are, if you watch the tape," Nar-



No. 7 Michigan State (1-0)
at No. 3 Oregon (1-0)
AFN-Sports
7:30 a.m. Sunday JKT

duzzi said. "We'll have our hands full."

Narduzzi may have been posturing a bit with that comment. There's no reason to sell Michigan State short after the Spartans finished second in the nation in total defense last season. Michigan State won the Big Ten and then beat Stanford in the Rose Bowl.

In the Big Ten title game against Ohio State, the Buckeyes were actually able to run the ball effectively, but they completed only eight passes against Michigan State's stingy secondary.

"They have some of the best defensive backs in the country. They really trust those guys outside and



PAUL SANCTA/AP

Michigan State cornerback Darian Hicks get an assist from safety Mark Meyers to bring down Jacksonville State wide receiver Anthony Johnson in the Spartans' season-opening win last Friday.

they like to bring pressure," Oregon quarterback Marcus Mariota said. "We'll have to be able to communicate up front and make

sure we're good in our protections and try and take our shots."

Oregon averaged 45 points per game last season, but the Ducks

did lose twice, including against Stanford when they allowed three sacks and didn't score until the fourth quarter. Now it's Michigan State — with defensive standouts linemen Shilique Calhoun and safety Kurtis Drummond — that will try to slow Mariota's team.

It's not that the Ducks overwhelm opponents with all sorts of different plays, it's that they can execute similar plays in different ways, depending on what the defense does — and without needing much time between snaps.

"They're going to repeat plays, we hope. We hope they don't have an arsenal of a hundred different plays that they can run Saturday," Narduzzi said Wednesday. "They're going to repeat plays, but I would say they're similar to us. They like to do things and do them well, and they definitely specialize in what they do."

Michigan State opened the season with an easy victory over Jacksonville State — another team that tries to push the pace offensively. Narduzzi estimates that Oregon is about four seconds per play faster than Jacksonville State. Throw in a potentially hot day out west, and this will be quite a challenge for the Spartans.

Stanford's offensive line has reputation to uphold

By ANTONIO GONZALEZ
The Associated Press

STANFORD, Calif. — Stanford's offensive line was in the middle of a meeting during spring practices earlier this year when a few large visitors walked into the room.

Current NFL linemen Jonathan Martin and David Yankey and former team captain Sam Schwartzstein popped in with a couple of other past players to give a surprise history lesson. They educated the new crop of Cardinal linemen about the responsibility they were inheriting and issued them a challenge.

"They told us they laid so much

ground work for us, but we had the opportunity to take that to the next step, to keep progressing, to keep it moving forward," redshirt sophomore center Graham Shuler said.

While most offensive lines lost in anonymity, Stanford's has gained national attention during the program's recent run of success, which includes winning the past two Pac-12 titles. The unit, dubbed the Tunnel Workers Union, has been the bulldozer in front of a power running game and the anchor behind a pro-style passing attack.

With four new starters next to one of the country's top left



No. 14 Southern Cal (1-0)
at No. 13 Stanford (1-0)
AFN-Sports
4:30 a.m. Sunday JKT

tackles in Andrus Peat, the unit is in the early stages of another reconstruction.

The new-look line will face its

first major test Saturday when the 13th-ranked Cardinal (1-0) host Leonard Williams and No. 14 Southern California (1-0) in a much-anticipated Pac-12 tilt.

"The challenge this week is prominent," said Stanford coach David Shaw, who has remained steadfast in his belief that the offensive line will continue to meet its high standard this season.

Shaw said on Signing Day in February 2012 that his five current starters — Peat, left guard Joshua Garnett, Shuler, right guard Johnny Caspers and right tackle Kyle Murphy — had the potential to "be one of the best offensive line classes in modern

football history."

Hogan said the offensive line is among the most tight-knit groups on the team and the linemen take it especially hard when they don't play well. He said watching how the group has performed against Stanford's defensive front seven in offseason practices gives him confidence they will show against USC just how good they can be.

"They play with a chip on their shoulder," Hogan said. "They know that we lost all those great guys on the offensive line the past couple years. They want to prove that they're that next elite group, which I think they are. It helps motivate them."

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Aggies' Hill will pass on 'Kenny Football' moniker

Record-setting quarterback wants to forge his own identity

By KRISTIE RIEKEN
The Associated Press

COLLEGE STATION, Texas

Just call him Kenny Trill.

Many, including Johnny Manziel himself, started calling new Texas A&M quarterback Kenny Hill by the nickname Kenny Football after his record-setting, 511-yard passing game in an upset of then-No. 9 South Carolina last week.

But the sophomore quarterback says that's Manziel's thing — and he prefers Kenny Trill.

"I like that one," he said. "That one's cool."

Before settling on Kenny Trill, Hill went through a laundry list of nicknames people have suggested since Thursday's game.

"I heard there's Kenny Trill, King of the Hill, Kenny Football, Kenny Chill, Kenny Touchdown," he said. "I mean there's too many of them."

Although trill is a word to describe a vibratory sound, that's not what it means in rap culture. It's a hybrid of true and real and has long been used by Texas rapper Bun B, who calls himself Bun B Trill OG.

"I know about Bun B and I know coach Sumlin has got a little relationship with Bun B," Hill said. "So hopefully he'll let me be Kenny Trill."

Maybe that will happen one day, but for now Bun B isn't quite ready to sign off on the moniker. He tweeted: "Like the idea of 'Kenny Trill' but I think @coachsumlin would agree one good game alone doesn't make you trill. He's on his way though!"

Hill said scores of people have approached him for pictures. They won't get them: Hill said coach Kevin Sumlin told him not to take them because "Johnny got in so much trouble over pictures."

Manziel, the 2012 Heisman Trophy winner for Texas A&M, was suspended for the first half of the Aggies' season opener against Rice for what the school said was an "inadvertent" violation of NCAA rules involving signing autographs. He also received criticism after being photographed after the Cotton Bowl in a nightclub holding a bottle of champagne and more criticism when he posted a picture of himself with a wad of cash from gambling.

Sumlin denied telling Hill that he wasn't allowed

to take pictures.

"I told the guys that if they ever want to pass the blame, blame it on me," Sumlin said with a laugh. "Johnny didn't do that a lot last year. Kenny already took advantage of that. But he needs to let me know. You've got something like that, just blame it on me. The next step is let me know."

Texas A&M's coaching staff even got on board with the nickname on Monday. When asked about Hill's turning into a celebrity overnight, offensive coordinator Jake Spavital answered: "Kenny Trill, you mean?"

Spavital said he didn't have any strong feelings about the nickname, but knew that he didn't want to copy Manziel's nickname.

Before settling on Kenny Trill, Hill went through a laundry list of nicknames people have suggested ...

"I heard there's Kenny Trill, Kenny Trill, King of the Hill, Kenny Football, Kenny Chill, Kenny Touchdown," he said. "I mean there's too many of them."

Hill was named Manziel's replacement on Aug. 16 after beating out freshman Kyle Allen for the job left vacant when Manziel left early for the NFL and a back-up job with the Cleveland Browns.

Hill said limited action last season, throwing for 183 yards and a touchdown in four games. He was the Texas Gatorade Player of the Year as a senior at Southlake Carroll High School after throwing for 2,291 yards and 20 touchdowns, and running for 905 yards and 22 scores.

He and the Aggies, who moved from No. 21 to No. 9 after beating South Carolina, play their first game at the newly renovated Kyle Field on Saturday when they host Lamar.



RAINIER ENHARD/AP

Texas A&M quarterback Kenny Hill, dubbed Kenny Football by many after his 511-yard passing performance in the Aggies' season-opening victory, prefers Kenny Trill. In hip-hop culture, trill is a hybrid of true and real. "I like that one," Hill said. "That one's cool."

Big Ten gets big chance to shape perception this week

By JON KRAWCZYNSKI
The Associated Press

The Big Ten has been fighting a perception for the last few years that it has fallen a step behind the rest of the major college football world, and Michigan State coach Mark Dantonio was armed with a quick rebuttal when the question came up last Tuesday.

As Dantonio's seventh-ranked Spartans prepare for a showdown with No. 3 Oregon on Saturday in a week that also includes Michigan visiting No. 16 Notre Dame and No. 8 Ohio State hosting Virginia Tech, the coach was asked if the Big Ten needs marquee victories to fight that perception.

"We won the Rose Bowl last year," Dantonio said, "so what are you talking about?"

"It's one game that we can control and we won the Rose Bowl. That's the best we can do. Everybody has to play the games and



Michigan (1-0)
at No. 16 Notre Dame (1-0)
AFN-Atlantic
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8:30 a.m. Sunday JKT

that's why they play them. We beat Georgia a couple years ago, but the perception still exists. You just line up and play games. I think that people get caught up in looking at a whole group of people and casting them into one group."

In the first year of the new playoff format, it could be argued that perception has never been more important.

This year, a 13-person commit-

tee is responsible for choosing four teams that will compete for the national championship. No computers. No polls. That relatively small group of people has been instructed to place an emphasis on strength of schedule in its evaluation process.

In a conference like the Big Ten that is considered softer than, say, the SEC, the opportunities to pile up wins that would impress the committee during the conference season aren't quite as bountiful. That's why Wisconsin's loss to LSU last weekend was particularly stinging for the Badgers, who do not play Michigan, Michigan State or Ohio State this season.

"Quality wins, big wins, all those things are always important," Michigan coach Brady Hoke said. "This is such a mental game played from the neck up in your everyday approach and your preparation. The enthusiasm that comes by that is always good for

anybody's program."

The Big Ten had an impressive opening weekend, going 12-2. But many of those games were played against lightweights while the conference lost two of the games that featured reputable programs from the power conferences — Wisconsin to LSU and Northwestern against Cal.

Ohio State had to slug it out with Navy to outlast its unconventional triple-option offense and now has to shift gears to play the Hokies.

The only team on the Buckeyes' remaining schedule that is currently ranked in the Top 25 is Michigan State on Nov. 8.

Hoke recalled how legendary Wolverines coach Bo Schembechler referred to the game against the Irish as "a measuring point" for the rest of the season.

"We can't worry about anybody else," Hoke said. "We've got to worry about what we're doing and people are going to write

what they think period about the Big Ten. From that standpoint we hope the conference does well, but we've got a lot on our plate going into South Bend."

The biggest game this weekend, no doubt, will be in Oregon. The Ducks' high-flying offense against the Spartans' physical defense. And no matter how much Dantonio wants to downplay it, a win for Michigan State would be a win for the Big Ten.

"We're in a great conference," Dantonio said. "This is about Michigan State and Oregon and how we match up. But there's no question we go there representing the Big Ten just like we do in every game and everything we do. I'm comfortable with that, but I think it's more about how we play, how our players play against their players and how we match up individually in our little battles."

AUTO RACING



DALE DAVIS/AP

In his first event since his sprint car struck and killed a fellow driver, Tony Stewart slammed the wall twice and settled for a dismal 41st-place finish at Atlanta Motor Speedway on Sunday, leaving him in a must-win situation this week at Richmond to make NASCAR's Chase for the Sprint Cup championship.

Chase or no Chase, Stewart must find a way to move on

TCHARLOTTE, N.C. Only Tony Stewart has one final shot to make the Chase, and it's not a very good one: He must win Saturday night at Richmond, where he last visited Victory Lane in 2002.

He sat out three races after his sprint car struck and killed Kevin Ward Jr. at a New York dirt track on Aug. 9, and his return to competition Sunday night at Atlanta Motor Speedway ended with a blown tire and a 41st-place finish.

Now the three-time NASCAR champion has to win at Richmond or he won't be eligible to race this season for a fourth title.

But does it really matter if Stewart makes the 16-driver field? Not in the least.

Stewart's team and his employees and his sponsors would be thrilled if Stewart pulled it off, and it sure felt as if the crowd was pulling for him given his reception as he walked across the stage during driver introductions. Stewart received a rousing ovation that was far louder than for any other driver, even the wildly popular Dale Earnhardt Jr.

So when his tire blew and he hit the wall, ending his night just past the halfway point, there was

heavy sadness in his voice as he radioed his crew.

"Sorry, guys," he said. "You deserve better than this."

Only the finish wasn't that important in the grand scheme of life, which Stewart is beginning to understand in the aftermath of Ward's death.

Returning to the track was imperative for Stewart, who had spent nearly three weeks in seclusion. Many of his peers tried and failed to comfort him; Stewart simply wasn't ready to talk or text or let anyone into his world of constant sorrow.

"I've wanted to talk to him for weeks," Atlanta winner Kasey Kahne said. "I think a lot of people have, and haven't been able to."

Kahne finally got his chance Friday after Stewart returned to the track, made his first public statement since Ward's death and then finally headed to his home-away-from-home in the NASCAR motorhome lot. Kahne was waiting.

"I was able to go in there and see him for the first time and give him a hug," Kahne said. "And it just felt really good to talk to him for 10 minutes."

Those friendships and support are what Stewart needs most right now. He needs normalcy and routine and the distraction of pulling on his helmet and climbing in a car. The investigation into Ward's death will last at least another two weeks, and criminal

charges are still possible. So it's foolish to think one weekend at the track did anything to make his problems go away.

Many will always scrutinize the timing of Stewart's return. He came back with two races remaining in the "regular season" and after Stewart-Haas Racing had successfully petitioned NASCAR for a waiver that would allow him into the Chase should he qualify.

A focused driver in a fast car with two chances to gain that important berth? Sure, the motives behind his return will seem questionable to some.

But many outside the celebrity world are touched by tragedy daily, and few get to simply shut down and grieve indefinitely. There are jobs, children, responsibilities and lives that go on. When something terrible happens, eventually it's time to return to work.

That's all Stewart did last weekend.

There was never going to be a "right" time for Stewart, but it was inevitable he'd be back. Racing is his job, his hobby. The race track is his home. The longer he stayed away, the longer the delay in the healing process.

It's not important if Stewart makes the Chase, it's just not. Moving forward and trying his best to pick up the pieces is all that matters now, and that made Sunday's race something of a small victory.

Around the tracks

NASCAR SPRINT CUP

This week: Federated Auto Parts 400 at Richmond, Va.

Track: Richmond International Raceway (oval, 0.75 miles).

Distance: 300 miles, 400 laps.
TV: AFN-Xtra, 1:30 a.m. Sunday Central European Time, 8:30 a.m. Sunday Japan and Korea Time.

Last year: Carl Edwards won the regular-season finale, taking the lead after Michael Waltrip Racing's Clint Bowyer spun to force a caution period.

Last week: Kasey Kahne won at Atlanta to wrap up a Chase position with his first victory of the season. Matt Kenseth was second to clinch a Chase spot through the season standings.

Next race: MyAflStory.com 400, Sept. 14, Chicagoland Speedway, Joliet, Ill.

Online: nascar.com

POINTS STANDINGS

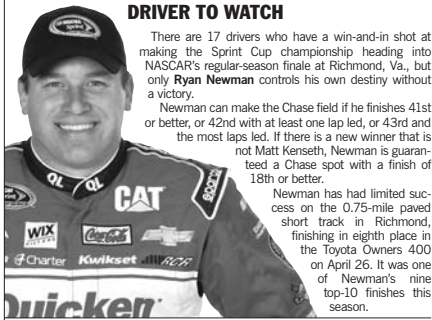
1. Jeff Gordon	872
2. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	851
3. Matt Kenseth	794
4. Joey Logano	791
5. Brad Keselowski	782
6. Jimmie Johnson	766
7. Carl Edwards	755
8. Kevin Harvick	748
9. Ryan Newman	747
10. Greg Biffle	728
11. Kasey Kahne	708
12. Clint Bowyer	705
13. Kyle Larson	704
14. Paul Menard	675
15. Austin Dillon	674
16. Jamie McMurray	666
17. Kyle Busch	657
18. Brian Vickers	650
19. Denny Hamlin	636
20. Marcos Ambrose	628

DRIVER TO WATCH

There are 17 drivers who have a win-and-in shot at making the Sprint Cup championship heading into NASCAR's regular-season finale at Richmond, Va., but only **Ryan Newman** controls his own destiny without a victory.

Newman can make the Chase field if he finishes 41st or better, or 42nd with at least one lap led, or 43rd and the most laps led. If there is a new winner that is not Matt Kenseth, Newman is guaranteed a Chase spot with a finish of 18th or better.

Newman has had limited success on the 0.75-mile paved short track in Richmond, finishing in eighth place in the Toyota Owners 400 on April 26. It was one of Newman's nine top-10 finishes this season.



NATIONWIDE SERIES

This week: Virginia 529 College Savings 250 at Richmond, Va.

Track: Richmond International Raceway (oval, 0.75 miles).

Track distance: 187.5 miles, 250 laps.

TV: AFN-Xtra, 1:30 a.m. Saturday Central European Time, 8:30 a.m. Saturday Japan and Korea Time.

Last year: Brad Keselowski raced to the fifth of his seven 2013 victories.

Last week: Kevin Harvick won at Atlanta for his third series win of the season and 43rd overall. He led the final 159 laps.

Next race: Jimmy John's Freesty 400, Sept. 13, Chicagoland Speedway, Joliet, Ill.

Online: nascar.com

CAMPING WORLD TRUCK SERIES

Next race: Lucas Oil 225, Sept. 12, Chicagoland Speedway, Joliet, Ill.

Last week: Ryan Blaney won the road race in Bowmanville, Ontario, for his first victory of the season. He passed Genaro Quiroga on the final turn.

Online: nascar.com

NHRA MELLO YELLO DRAG RACING

Next event: NHRA Carolina Nationals, Sept. 12-14, zMAX Dragway, Concord, N.C.

Last week: Alexis DeJoria beat John Force in the U.S. Nationals in Clermont, Ind. Richie Crumpton won the Top Fuel final. Shane Gray topped the Pro Stock field and Eddie Krawiec won in Pro Stock Motorcycle. In the rain-delayed Brainerd, Minn., finals, Ron Capps won in Funny Car and Jason Line topped the Pro Stock field.

Online: www.nhra.com

OTHER RACES

U.S. AUTO RACING CLUB: Silver Crown: Tony Bettenhausen 100, Sunday, Ill. State Fairgrounds, Springfield, Ill.

Online: usacracing.com
WORLD OF OUTLAWS: Sprint Car: Friday-Saturday, Silver Dollar Speedway, Chico, Calif.; Sunday, Antioch Speedway, Antioch, Calif. Super DirtCar: Saturday, Outlawz Grand Prix, Grantly, Quebec.

Online: worldofoutlaws.com
— The Associated Press

In the Pits



by JENNA FRYER • AP

NFL



ELISE AMENDOLA/AP

Wide receiver Aaron Dobson is one of nine New England Patriots with the most receptions last year who will be ready to play Sunday against the Miami Dolphins, leaving Tom Brady with plenty of options.

Brady has familiar targets

Patriots' receiving corps starting off stronger than last season

By Howard Ulman
The Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — When Tom Brady played in his top five pass catchers from the previous season were in uniform.

When he starts this season Sunday, the nine players with the most receptions last year for the New England Patriots should be ready to catch his throws.

"I hope we're at a better place than we were last year because we started pretty fresh last year," Brady said Wednesday. "We certainly have some new players, some new additions who are doing different things. Different guys are playing some different spots. But everyone's kind of got to find a role for themselves, and then we go out there and let it rip and see where we're at."

In 2012, Patriots wide receivers and tight ends caught 346 passes. In the 2013 opener, players who caught just 26 of those passes were active.

Last year, those positions produced 296 receptions for the Patriots. Players who caught 279 of them are expected to play Sunday at the Miami Dolphins.

"The more we're on the same page, the better we're going to be," Brady said. "Offensive football is about anticipation and about having a lot of trust and confidence in one another. I think we built on that."

The Patriots began last season with a new veteran wide receiver, Danny Amendola, and three rookies — Aaron Dobson, Kenbrell Thompkins and Josh Boyce. Tight

end Rob Gronkowski missed the first six games following forearm and back surgery.

This season's newcomers are wide receiver Brandon LaFell, who had a career-high 49 catches last season, his fourth with Carolina, and tight end Tim Wright, who had 54 receptions as a rookie last season with Tampa Bay.

LaFell has had plenty of time to adjust to the Patriots system after signing as a free agent on March 17. A turning point came in the week leading up to the preseason opener at Washington when the Patriots practiced with the Redskins.

"I started getting a little uncomfortable in this offense probably after the joint practices against the Redskins," he said. "It was going against somebody else who hasn't seen what we run every day in practice. After a while you go against your defense every day and they know your calls. They know your checks."

Wright has had much less time to prepare.

The Patriots obtained him for six-time Pro-Bowl guard Logan Mankins on Aug. 26. Two days later, Wright caught four passes, all from rookie Jimmy Garoppolo, in a 16-13 preseason loss to the New York Giants.

Brady will be doing the throwing Sunday.

"He's a great quarterback and we're trying to do as much as we can on the side, just trying to get that connection down," Wright said. "Tom [and] the coaches are going to do a good job getting me ready and I'm going to feel confident on game day."

Wright came to the NFL as a 6-foot-4, 220-pound wide receiver who wasn't drafted out of Rutgers. He was converted to tight end by the Buccaneers and gives the Patriots an athletic pass catcher.

"We're trying to get to know each other and spend extra time communicating, gain his understanding of the things that he expects versus my expectations. It's really a learning process," Brady said. "If he's out there, if they don't cover him, I'll probably throw him the ball."

Wright was happy to hear that from the 15-year veteran who has been his teammate barely a week.

"I feel good about it, just trying to go out there and be consistent as much as I can," Wright said. "Just know it could be a person that he could rely on."

The biggest addition is Gronkowski, who played just seven games last season then missed the last three of the regular season plus two in the playoffs with a knee injury. He said Monday that he will play Sunday after missing all four preseason games.

Coach Bill Belichick wasn't ready to declare that publicly.

"We're going to do what we always do, which is evaluate the players and select the active roster based on the players that we feel give our team the best opportunity to win this week," he said. "That's what we've always done and that's what we'll do for this team for every player and every situation. How that will turn out, I don't know."

Injury report

NEW YORK — The updated National Football League injury report, as provided by the league:

GREEN BAY PACKERS AT SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — **PACKERS**: OUT: TE Brandon Bostick (fibula), CB Demetri Goodson (concussion), C J.C. Carmona (knee), **PROBABLE**: LB Brad Jones (quadriceps). **SEAHAWKS**: OUT: TE Cooper Helfert (knee), C Lemuel Jeanloure (neck), RB Christine Michael (hamstring), LB Kevin Pierre-Louis (hamstring), CB Tharold Simon (knee), **PROBABLE**: LB Bruce Irvin (hip), CB Jeremy Lane (groin), WR Kevin Norwood (hamstring).

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS AT ATLANTA FALCONS — **SAINTS**: DNP: S Marcus Ball (hamstring), RB Erik Lowry (ankle), **LIMITED**: WR Kenry Stills (quadriceps). **FALCONS**: **FULL**: DT Corey Peters (Achilles), S Dezhaun Swadwell (concussion).

MINNESOTA VIKINGS AT ST. LOUIS RAMS — **VIKINGS**: DNP: RB Zach Line (ankle), LB Michael Mauti (foot), LB Brandon Watts (knee), **LIMITED**: T Mike Harris (shoulder), **FULL**: CB Jahari Price (shoulder), WR Rodney Smith (neck). **RAMS**: DNP: CB Trumaine Johnson (knee), C Barrett Jones (back), **LIMITED**: LB Jo-Lonn Dunbar (shoulder), DE William Hayes (chest), T Jake Long (knee), DE Eugene Sims (knee).

CLEVELAND BROWNS AT PITTSBURGH STEELERS — **BROWNS**: DNP: DE Desmond Bryant (wrist), G Paul McQuistan (ankle), **LIMITED**: DE John Hughes (hamstring), **FULL**: CB Pierre Desir (knee), CB Joe Haden (foot), LB Eric Martin (concussion), CB Buster Skrine (thumb), LB Christian Yount (shoulder). **STEELERS**: DNP: WR Martavis Bryant (shoulder), WR Lance Moore (groin), **LIMITED**: CB Bruce McCain (groin), **FULL**: TE Matt Spaeth (hamstring), LB Sean Spence (knee), C Greg Warren (knee).

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS AT PHILADELPHIA EAGLES — **JAGUARS**: DNP: TE Clay Hester (calf), RB Storm Johnson (calf), G Austin Pasztor (hand), **LIMITED**: P Bryan Anger (right groin), G Zane Beadles (calf), DT Sen'Derrick Marks (shoulder), WR Allen Robinson (concussion), K Josh Scobee (right quadriceps), T Josh Wells (shoulder), **FULL**: C Mike Bowanko (quadriceps). **EAGLES**: DNP: WR Josh Huff (shoulder), T Matt Tobin (ankle), CB Jaylen Watkins (hamstring), **FULL**: WR Riley Cooper (ankle), RB Chris Polk (hamstring), WR Brad Smith (groin).

OAKLAND RAIDERS AT NEW YORK JETS RAIDERS: DNP: CB Chimdi Chekwa (knee), **LIMITED**: LB Nick Roach (concussion), **FULL**: TE David Ausberry (knee), K Sebastian Janikowski (right quadriceps), CB Taiwan Jones (knee), QB Matt Schaub (right elbow), **FULL**: QB Matt Schaub (right elbow), T Meneik Watson (concussion). **JETS**: DNP: S Josh Bush (quadriceps), LB Kemerun Eneke (foot), CB Dee Miller (ankle), **LIMITED**: S Antonio Allen (concussion).

CINCINNATI BENGALS AT BALTIMORE RAIDERS: DNP: WR Marvin Jones (foot), head (knee), G Mike Pollak (knee), LB Sean Porter (hamstring), WR James Wright (concussion), **LIMITED**: CB Darqueze Earls (right knee), WR Vonn Hunter (hamstring), TE Tyler Eifert (shoulder), RB Cedric Peerman (hip), RB Bernard Pierce (concussion), CB Lardarius Webb (concussion).

BUFFALO BILLS AT CHICAGO BEARS: **BILLS**: DNP: TE Lee Smith (toe), **LIM-**

ITED: CB Stephen Gilmore (groin), LB Randall Johnson (ankle), S Jonathan Weeks (neck), **FULL**: WR Sammy Watkins (ribs), **BEARS**: OUT: QB David Fales (right shoulder), **LIMITED**: Chris Conte (calf), C Brian de la Puente (ankle), RB Tony Fiammetta (hamstring).

WASHINGTON REDSKINS AT HOUSTON TEXANS — **REDSKINS**: DNP: LB Akeem Jordan (knee), CB Tracy Porter (hamstring), **LIMITED**: LB Brian Orakpo (ankle), TE Jordan Reed (thumb), **TEXANS**: DNP: TE Garrett Gaiard (back), DE Tim Jamison (groin), CB Jonathan Joseph (foot), **FULL**: CB A.J. Bouye (shoulder), Tyson Clabo (ankle), LB Brian Cushing (ankle), LB Mike Mohamed (quadriceps), C Chris Myers (toe), NT Louis Nix III (knee), DE Jay Proch (hand), LB Justin Tuggle (knee).

TENNESSEE TITANS AT KANSAS CITY CHIEFS — **TITANS**: DNP: RB Jackie Battle (shoulder), DT Mike Martin (hamstring), QB Charlie Whitehurst (right finger), **CHIEFS**: DNP: C Eric Kush (shoulder), S Eric Berry (heel), DE Mike DeVito (hand), LB Tamba Hall (knee), WR Junior Hemingway (hip), WR A.J. Jenkins (concussion), LB Josh Martin (quadriceps), DT Vance Walker (hand), WR Albert Wilson (ankle).

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS AT MIAMI DOLPHINS — **PATRIOTS**: **LIMITED**: DE Michael Buchanan (ankle), RB Gronkowski (knee), DT Chris Jones (ankle), DT Seawall Siliga (hand), **DOLPHINS**: DNP: DE Terrence Fede (knee), C Mike Pouncey (hip), LB Jordan Tripp (chest), **LIMITED**: CB Walt Aikens (hand), TE Charles clay (knee), LB Koa Misi (shoulder), DE Derrick Shelby (illness), C Caleb Zary (calf), CB Jamaal Williams (hip), T Billy Turner (foot), LB Philip Wheeler (thumb), **FULL**: RB Knowshon Moreno (knee).

CAROLINA PANTHERS AT TAMPA BAY BUCCANERS — **PANTHERS**: DNP: QB Cam Newton (ribs), **BUCCANERS**: DNP: DE DaQuan Bowers (abdomen), DE William Gholston (shoulder), S Bradley McDougald (knee), CB Rashawn Melvin (ankle), WR Louis Murphy Jr. (back), **LIMITED**: RB Mike James (shoulder), RB Jorvorskie Lane (hand), **FULL**: CB Mike Jenkins (hamstring).

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS AT DALLAS COWBOYS — **49ERS**: No Data Reported. **COWBOYS**: DNP: DE Anthony Spencer (knee), T Darrion Weems (shoulder), **LIMITED**: DT Terrell McClain (ankle), **FULL**: QB Tony Romo (back), DE George Selvie (shoulder).

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS AT DENVER BRONCOS — **COLTS**: DNP: G Joe Reitz (ankle), WR Reggie Wayne (not injury related), **LIMITED**: S Sergio Brown (shoulder), C Khalid Holmes (ankle), **FULL**: C Jonathan Harrison (hand), **BRONCOS**: DNP: G Ben Garland (ankle), LB Danny Trevathan (lower leg), **LIMITED**: WR Isaiah Vasquez (back), **FULL**: CB Chris Harris Jr. (knee), DT Terrance Knighton (knee), WR Emmanuel Sanders (shin), CB Kavon Webster (ankle).

NEW YORK GIANTS AT DETROIT LIONS: No Data Reported.

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS AT ARIZONA CARDINALS: No Data Reported.



Carolina Panthers quarterback Cam Newton stands with offensive coordinator Mike Shula during practice on Wednesday. Newton did not participate in practice after experiencing soreness in his cracked ribs. The team is optimistic Newton will start Sunday at Tampa Bay.

NFL

Demise of a defense

Use of 'Tampa 2' scheme on decline around league

By DAVE CAMPBELL
The Associated Press

THE INNOVATION in the NFL can be tough. Successful schemes breed imitations and force opponents to adjust. Eventually, even for the soundest of systems, the code is bound to be cracked.

Consider the case of the "Tampa 2" defense.

"You're not going to shock people when you throw out the Tampa 2: 'Oh, my gosh. How do we attack this?' Because that's all they've been doing for quite a few years now," said Dallas assistant coach Monte Kiffin, who directed and perfected the defense under Tony Dungy with Tampa Bay.

While Kiffin and Rod Marinelli still teach it with the Cowboys, and Lovie Smith and Leslie Frazier have returned it to the Buccaneers, but evidence of the Tampa 2's use around the NFL these days is scant.

Ten years ago, this was an ideal base defense.

Teams could rely on a four-man pass rush up front more than blitzing. In turn, outside linebackers and cornerbacks dropped into coverage zones, with the middle linebacker backpedaling into the crease between the safeties to make deep passes difficult. Sure tacklers from the back seven were assigned to gaps in the line for run support, freeing the front four to focus on one each. Scoring against a Tampa 2 was going to require patience.

"We did a lot of things that were simplistic. We never worried about the size. The defense was built on quickness," Kiffin said.

Smith, Marinelli and Herm Edwards were Buccaneers assistants in the late 1990s under Dungy and Kiffin, who took the system south after developing it together in

Minnesota. The catchy nickname for this derivative of the Cover 2 zone strategy, defined by two safeties splitting the deep halves of the field in pass coverage, stuck during Tampa Bay's time as an NFC power.

The roots, however, traced to Pittsburgh with head coach Chuck Noll and defensive coordinator Bud Carson two decades before that. Dungy was a young defensive back then for the Steelers.

"People identified it with Tampa, but there was nothing different. We didn't make any changes from the 1975 playbook," Dungy said. "There isn't too much new in the game of football that hasn't been done before."

With tackle

Warren Sapp, linebacker Derrick Brooks and safety John Lynch, those Buccaneers teams had quite the backbone.

"You can have the blueprints, but if you don't have the parts they don't work," Brooks said. "Players play the game. Systems don't."

Seams in the coverage, though, were easier to exploit without Hall of Fame players like Sapp and Brooks defending. Dungy and Edwards moved from the sideline to the TV studio. The increase in three-wide receiver and two-tight end sets, plus elite quarterback play, minimized the effectiveness of the Tampa 2.

Then there was the rule changes

designed to stem head and neck injuries, with stiffer penalties for hits on defenseless receivers. Opponents, thus, became more emboldened to run routes across the middle without an enforcer like Lynch waiting to punish them.

"Lynch would knock the hell out of you," Sapp said. "You can't do it anymore. That's the question I have for Lovie. How do you plan on doing what we did to take away the middle of that field?"

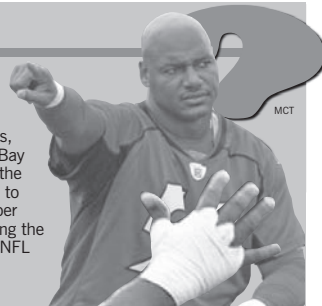
Still, Frazier, eager to work with Pro Bowl tackle Gerald McCoy and linebacker Lavonte David, said he has "no doubt" the Tampa 2 is still viable.

"We feel like we have the foundation on this defense to make it work," Frazier said.

Did you know

Behind Hall-of-fame players like Warren Sapp, left, and Derrick Brooks, right, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers rode the 'Tampa 2' defense to the team's first Super

Bowl win during the 2002-03 NFL season.



SOURCE: The Associated Press

'We did a lot of things that were simplistic. We never worried about the size. The defense was built on quickness.'

Monte Kiffin
Dallas Cowboys
assistant coach

PHOTOS BY STEVE NESIUS, RIGHT,
AND CHARLES KRUPA, LEFT/AP

NFL

Goodell, NFL bring down the hammer

Welker, Mathis, Smith, Gordon among players who will begin season serving suspensions

By **BARRY WILNER**
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Wes Welker, Robert Mathis, Aldon Smith, Josh Gordon.

A solid quartet to put on any NFL field. Except that they are among 29 players suspended by the league heading into the 2014 season.

Among those big names, Cleveland's Gordon got the longest ban, sidelined for the entire season for violating the NFL's substance abuse policy. His absence might be the most damaging, too, and not only for its length. A Pro Bowl wide receiver, Gordon was the only established target on the Browns, who figured to be an also-ran even with him in the lineup.

That Gordon's case lingered for weeks while appeals were heard, and was not decided until just before the season, didn't help the Browns, either.

"How it played out was not ideal circumstances for us, obviously, but that's behind us," coach Mike Pettine said. "You can't worry about guys you don't have. ... I've said this all along, you don't replace a Josh Gordon, a top-five NFL receiver, with just one player."

Welker's four-game suspension, announced Tuesday, shouldn't hurt the Broncos nearly so much considering the other receiving talent on hand. And having Peyton Manning throwing to them.

More harmful: Matt Prater's four-gamer, which takes away a significant weapon. Prater made 25 of 26 field goals in 2013, including a record 64-yarder. Denver is going with a rookie, Brandon McManus.

Prater has been in the NFL's drug program, which includes alcohol, since a DUI arrest in 2011. He said he realized one more strike meant he'd face sitting out

an entire season when he decided to have some beers "right after the season."

"Why did I risk it?" Prater said. "I made a mistake. I don't have an excuse for it. I screwed up and now I'm paying the price for it."

For Indianapolis and San Francisco, the loss of key defenders could have a huge impact.

Mathis, gone for four games, led the league with 19½ sacks in a career year. The Colts will face high-powered Denver and Philadelphia in the first two weeks without their best player on that side of the ball.

"We've got a soldier down," Colts DE Cory Redding said of Mathis. "We're going to wait for him to come back, but until then, we're going to hold down the fort."

Smith's absence means San Francisco is without two playmakers at linebacker, because All-Pro NaVorro Bowman is recovering from a gruesome knee injury sustained in the NFC title game loss to Seattle. Smith is gone for nine games for violating the drug and personal conduct policies, which means both he and Bowman might not be in the lineup before mid-November.

Ravens standout Ray Rice is suspended for two games for a domestic abuse issue, a penalty that Goodell later referenced as not being strong enough. Baltimore opens with defending AFC North champion Cincinnati, and Rice's backup, Bernard Pierce, was hobbled in the preseason.

Two players are suspended indefinitely: Jaguars WR Justin Blackmon and Redskins safety Tanard Jackson. Neither's loss should be too significant.

One other player gone for the season, Arizona linebacker Daryl Washington, is a significant one for the Cardinals, who previously lost Karlos Dansby in free agency. They also had top defensive line-



AP Photos

Pictured, clockwise from top, are Wes Welker, Robert Mathis, Josh Gordon, and Aldon Smith. A solid quartet to put on any football field, except all four are among the players suspended by the league heading into the 2014 season.

man Darnell Dockett tear up his right knee and is done for 2014.

Other familiar names whose suspensions likely will hurt their teams are Patriots CB Brandon Browner (four games), Eagles tackle Lane Johnson (four),

Cowboys DB Orlando Scandrick (four), and Redskins safety Brandon Meriweather (two).

"I think you have to get creative with what you do, and roll some different guys in there, maybe change some personnel

groupings and get some different matchups," Cleveland's Pettine said, speaking directly about Gordon's absence, but representative of how many teams must react. "That's the challenge that we face."

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GAMEDAY

WEEK 1

TELEvised GAMES



New Orleans Saints (0-0)
at Atlanta Falcons (0-0)

AFN-Sports
7 p.m. Sunday CET
2 a.m. Monday JKT

Series: The Falcons lead 46-43 but the Saints have won 13 of the past 16.

Last meeting: The Saints won 17-13 on Nov. 21, 2013, in Atlanta.

Notes: The Saints ranked second in passing offense (307.4 yards per game) and passing defense (194.1) last season. ... Falcons quarterback Matt Ryan passed for 4,515 yards last year, his third consecutive 4,000-yard season. He's 36-10 at home in his career.



New England Patriots (0-0)
at Miami Dolphins (0-0)

AFN-Atlantic
7 p.m. Sunday CET
2 a.m. Monday JKT

Series: The Dolphins lead 50-44, but the Patriots have won seven of the past nine.

Last meeting: The Dolphins won 24-20 on Dec. 15, 2013, in Miami.

Notes: The Patriots have won 10 or more games for 11 straight seasons, the second-longest streak in history. ... In the teams' last meeting, Dolphins quarterback Ryan Tannehill passed for 321 yards and three touchdowns with no interceptions.

Marquee matchup

Indianapolis Colts (0-0) at Denver Broncos (0-0)

AFN-Sports, 2:30 a.m. Monday CET, 9:30 a.m. Monday JKT

SERIES RECORD: Broncos lead 11-9; Colts have won past five.

LAST MEETING: Colts beat Broncos 39-33, Oct. 20, 2013.

COLTS OFFENSE (2013): OVERALL (15), RUSH (20), PASS (17).

COLTS DEFENSE: OVERALL (20), RUSH (26), PASS (13).

BRONCOS OFFENSE: OVERALL (1), RUSH (15), PASS (1).

BRONCOS DEFENSE: OVERALL (19), RUSH (7), PASS (27).

STREAKS, STATS AND

NOTES: In 2013, Colts quarterback Andrew Luck became first quarterback selected No. 1 overall to start a playoff game in each of his first two

seasons. He also passed for more yards (8,196) than any other QB in history in his first two seasons. In the last meeting between the two teams, Luck passed for 228 yards and accounted for four touchdowns (three rushing, one passing).

... Since 2012, Colts running back Trent Richardson has 14 rushing TDs, tied for fourth in the AFC. ... Colts wide receiver Reggie Wayne (1,006 receptions) is one of nine players in history to reach 1,000 career catches. The Colts are the only team in history with two 1,000-catch players (Marvin Harrison has 1,102). Wayne Needs 19 receptions to surpass Isaac Bruce (1,024) for seventh all-time. ... The Broncos set the all-time single-season record for points in 2013 (606) and became the first team in history to have five players score 10 or more TDs in one season. ... Broncos QB Peyton Manning set the season passing record for yards (5,477) and TDs (55) in 2013. He ranks second in career yards (64,964), completions (5,532) and TDs (491). Selected No. 1 overall in 1998, Manning spent 14 seasons (1998-2011) with the Colts.



San Francisco 49ers (0-0)
at Dallas Cowboys (0-0)

AFN-Sports
10 p.m. Sunday CET
5 a.m. Monday JKT

Series: The 49ers lead 14-11-1, but the Cowboys have won the past three and four of the past five.

Last meeting: The Cowboys won 27-24 in overtime on Sept. 18, 2011, in San Francisco.

Notes: 49ers coach Jim Harbaugh is the first head coach since the 1970 merger to lead his team to the conference championship game in his first three seasons. ... Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo is 2-0 in his career against the 49ers.



Carolina Panthers (0-0)
at Tampa Bay Buccaneers (0-0)

AFN-Atlantic
10 p.m. Sunday CET
5 a.m. Monday JKT

Series: The Panthers lead 16-11 and have won four of the past six.

Last meeting: The Panthers won 27-6 on Dec. 1, 2013, in Charlotte.

Notes: The Panthers won the NFC South last season and tied a team record with 12 wins. ... Panthers running back DeAngelo Williams is the franchise leader in yards (6,627) and touchdowns (46). ... Buccaneers wide receiver Vincent Jackson had a career-high 78 catches for 1,224 yards last year.



Colts running back Trent Richardson

SAM RICHE/MCT

Game capsules compiled from nfl media.com

Also on AFN:

Cincinnati Bengals (0-0) at Baltimore Ravens (0-0), AFN-Xtra, 7 p.m. Sunday CET, 6:30 a.m. Monday JKT, AFN-Xtra

EXPANDED STANDINGS

American Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	East	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
Buffalo	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
Miami	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
New England	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
N.Y. Jets	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
Houston	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
Indianapolis	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
Jacksonville	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
Tennessee	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
Baltimore	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
Cincinnati	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
Cleveland	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
Pittsburgh	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
Denver	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
Kansas City	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
Oakland	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
San Diego	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0

National Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	East	PF	PA	Home	Away	NFC	AFC	Div
Dallas	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
N.Y. Giants	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
Philadelphia	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
Washington	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
Atlanta	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
Carolina	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
New Orleans	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
Tampa Bay	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
Chicago	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
Detroit	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
Green Bay	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
Minnesota	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
Arizona	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
San Francisco	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
Seattle	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
St. Louis	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0

REST OF THE SCHEDULE

Minnesota at St. Louis
Buffalo at Chicago
Washington at Houston
Tennessee at Kansas City
Cleveland at Philadelphia
Jacksonville at Philadelphia
Oakland at N.Y. Jets
N.Y. Giants at Detroit
San Diego at Arizona

NEXT WEEK

Thursday, Sept. 11
Pittsburgh at Baltimore
Sunday, Sept. 14
Dallas at Tennessee
New England at Minnesota
Miami at Buffalo
Jacksonville at Washington
Houston at Cleveland
New Orleans at Carolina
Detroit at Carolina
Seattle at San Diego
St. Louis at Tampa Bay
Houston at Oakland
Kansas City at Denver
N.Y. Jets at Green Bay
Chicago at San Francisco
Monday, Sept. 15
Philadelphia at Indianapolis

SPORTS

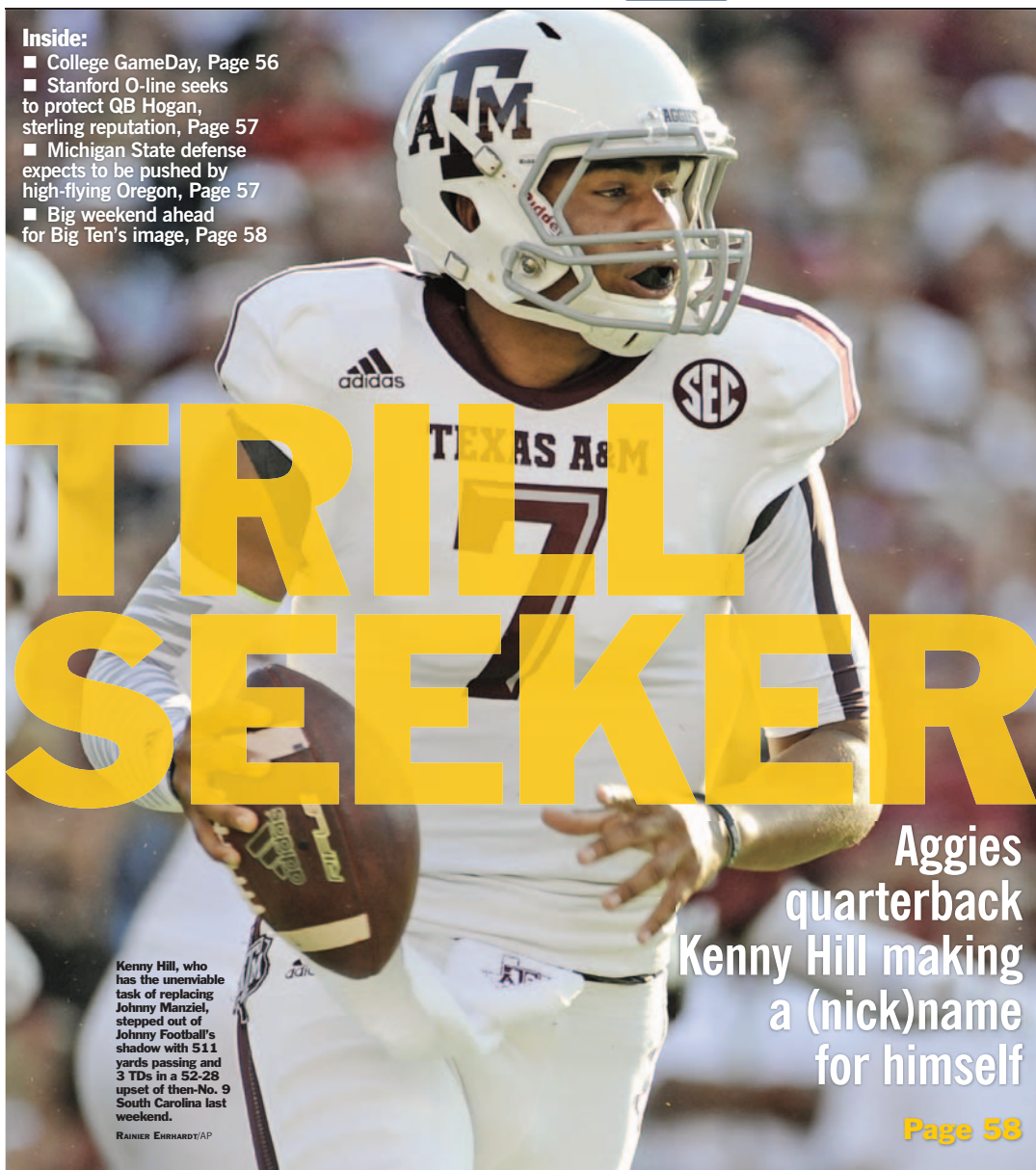


Broken coverage

Heyday is over for innovative
'Tampa 2' defense | **Page 61**

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- Stanford O-line seeks to protect QB Hogan, sterling reputation, Page 57
- Michigan State defense expects to be pushed by high-flying Oregon, Page 57
- Big weekend ahead for Big Ten's image, Page 58



Kenny Hill, who has the unenviable task of replacing Johnny Manziel, stepped out of Johnny Football's shadow with 511 yards passing and 3 TDs in a 52-28 upset of then-No. 9 South Carolina last weekend.

RAINIER ENRhardt/AP

Aggies
quarterback
Kenny Hill making
a (nick)name
for himself

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Pacific high school football previews
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High schools, Page 55



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